RAIDER RIVALS
Centerpiece looks at our friendly (and not so friendly) foes.
page 8

The Shakerite

SHAKER HOLD 'EM
Shaker students deal into the latest card craze
page 10

March 3, 2004 · Volume 74 · Issue 6 · Shaker Heights High School · 15911 Aldersyde Drive · Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Shaker Square continues downturn

JOSEPH-BETH BOOKSELLERS, a staple business at Shaker Square, went through another downsizing in early 2004, which included the closing of Bronte Bistro.

Hilry Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE

· Increase in crime, opening of Legacy Village hurt district

By Marguerite Moore and Adam Weinstein
CENTERPIECE EDITOR AND STAFF REPORTER

Shaker Square, the second oldest shopping center in the United States, has once again changed owners as a decrease in shoppers and an increase in crime have developers, city officials and residents struggling to preserve Shaker Square.

Many businesses on the square have closed in the last two years. The loss of major businesses, or anchor stores, such as Wild Oats Market and Gap, was a major factor in the area's economic downfall. The opening of Legacy Village in Lyndhurst has also affected the square.

"It's very common for a place like Shaker Square to have an adjustment period after a grand-opening," said Howard Landau, a representative of Shaker Square Associates, in reference to the rise in vacancies and other economic problems Shaker Square has experienced since its 1999 renovation.

Landau also believes one reason for the center's difficulties is that in order for customers to come to Shaker Square, they must not view it as a mall but rather as a unique shopping destination.

"National retailers have national profit numbers they have to make that were not realistic for Shaker Square," he said. "Shaker Square is not a big mall."

However, not all the businesses at Shaker Square feel that the economic struggles or competition from places like Legacy Village will drive them out.

SEE SQUARE, PAGE 4

In few words, Antwone Fisher speaks volumes

By Betty Elee
NEWS EDITOR

"I don't want to stand for an hour," whined a patron from the midst of the crowd in the library's egress. *Antwone Fisher's book signing and discussion session brought* about 100 inspired readers to the Shaker Main Library Feb. 4. Fifteen minutes before the event started, the staff had already run out of seats. The author of autobiography "Finding Fish" was no uninvited guest.

> "You could tell he was intelligent and he gained intelligence through his experiences."
>
> Andrea Martin
> junior

Fisher, a native Clevelander raised in the foster care system, sat regally yet humbly at the front of the room, waiting for the ceremony to commence.

The crowd chatted, constantly craning their necks for the best view of Fisher and his entourage. A quavering American flag emerged from between two bookshelves and the Chanticleers strode to the front of the audience, signaling the start of the ceremony.

Fisher

Preceding Fisher was a wave of Shaker celebrities, including the library's board of trustees Vice President David Bergholz, Cleveland Area Metropolitan Library System's Executive Director Mike Snyder and Shaker Mayor Judy Rawson. Library Director Edrice Ivory officially introduced Fisher, who was zealously received with a standing ovation.

"It's always a pleasure to come back to Cleveland," the author said softly.

Fisher, who moved to California to serve in the Navy, later found his family in Cleveland via an extremely lucky phone call.

"Lying there on the floor, among a few other items . . . is the Cleveland phone book," Fisher wrote.

SEE FISHER, PAGE 13

BATTLE OF OHIO

JOHN EDWARDS
JOHN EDWARDS

FOCUS • Follow the race to the White House in terms you can understand • page 16

NORTH CAROLINA *SENATOR and presidential candidate John* Edwards speaks to supporters at Cleveland State University Feb. 21. Edwards hopes to do well in the Ohio primary, one of 12 primaries on Super Tuesday, March 2. The current front runner, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, visited Cleveland as well, speaking at Cuyahoga Community College Feb. 24.

Will Werner • THE SHAKERITE

Public humiliation revisited with yellow license plates

Do you think yellow license plates will discourage you from driving drunk?

72% yes

9939
OHIO
H-1

28% no

Scientific poll of 80 students with a margin of error +/- 11 percent. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

By Emily Grannis
NEWS EDITOR

Ohio legislature recently passed a law requiring people convicted of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol to put a yellow license plate with red numbers on their car. The plates can be removed when a judge signs a release.

Psychology teacher Sally Hagstrand said public humiliation is an effective punishment in theory but that the law is targeting the wrong people: those who commit the offense just once. She believes it might shame these people but not others.

"I don't think it's going to be effective at all for the chronic offender," Hagstrand said.

The American Civil Liberties Union is concerned that the new law restricts a person's freedom to keep information private, though according to Gary Daniels, an ACLU employee, it is not a top priority. Daniels acknowledged that the government considers driving a privilege, not a right.

"In general, we are against any of the Scarlet-Letter-type laws," said Daniels, referring to laws that lead to public humiliation through the use of symbols.

English teacher Paul Springstubb wondered if, like in 'The Scarlet Letter,' the meaning of the plates will change.

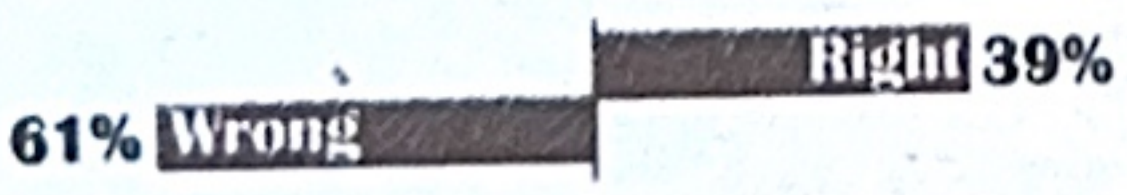
"'The Scarlet Letter' is great because it shows how the symbol does not fulfill its purpose," Springstubb said. "The letter A is transformed from 'adulterer' to 'able.' What odd transformation might occur in connection with the yellow license plates?"

Senior David Schwartz thought the threat of shame would prevent people from commiting the offense.

"I think that's a good idea . . . [People] will be ashamed of it so they won't drive drunk," Schwartz said.

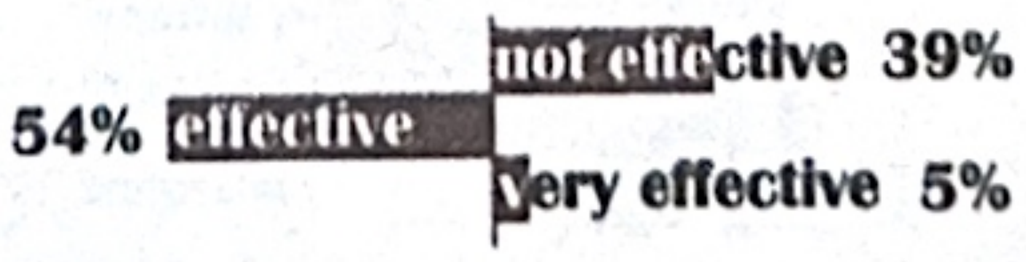
On the Line

Who is the president of Student Council?

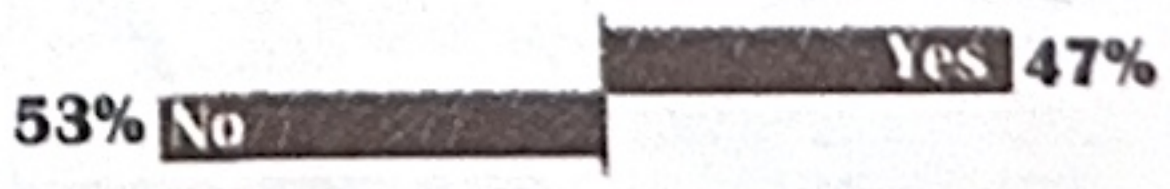


Answer: Katie Glass

How effective has Student Council been this year?

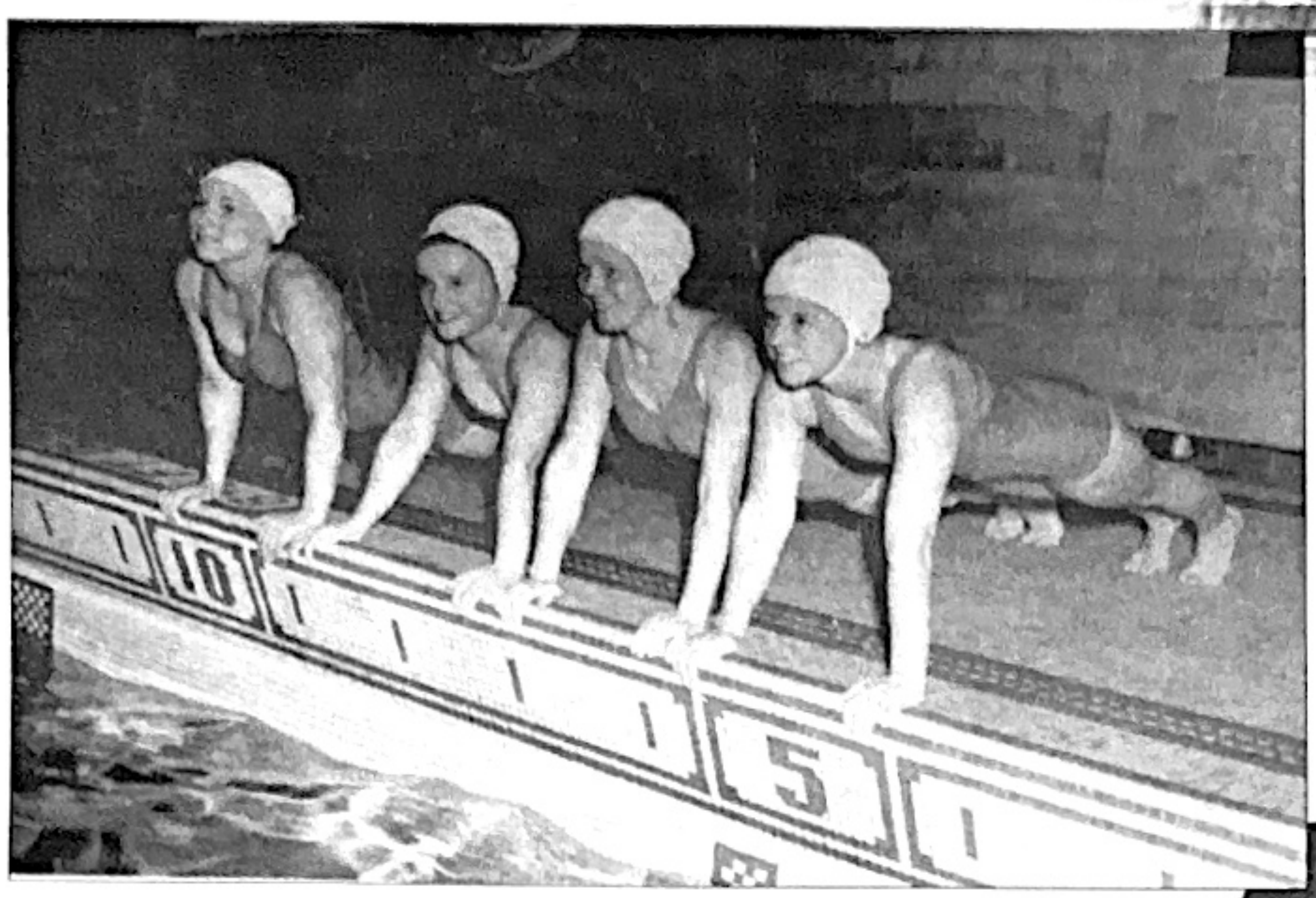


Do you think Student Council has an influence on school policy?



Scientific poll of 77 students with a margin of error +/- 11 percent. Shakerite staff telephoned students.

UP FRONT



And you think gym class is a hassle these days? The wetter, the better!

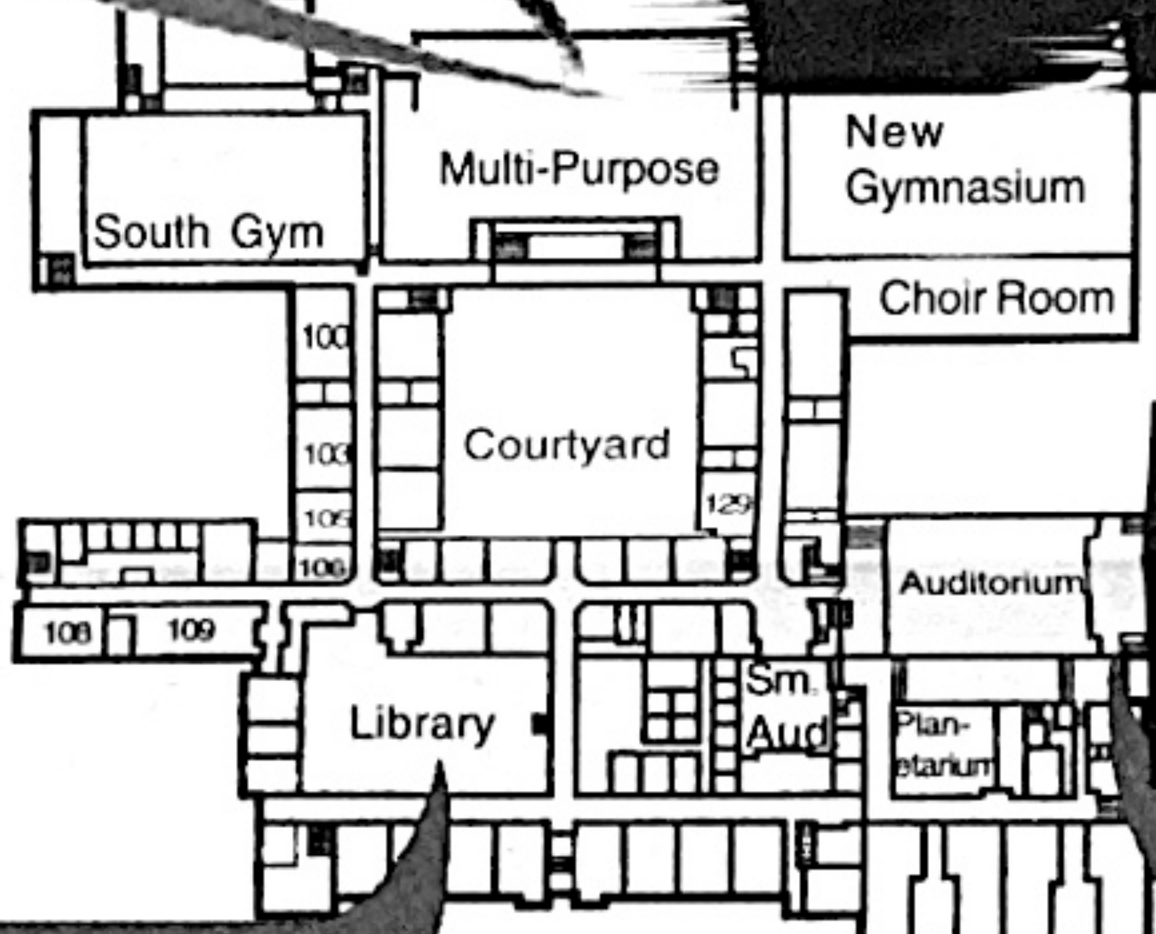
• Taking the high school plunge after middle school used to involve more of a splash. The high school's pool was one of the first indoor pools built in Northeast Ohio. It was used for swim meets, gym class and even synchronized swimming. The pool was removed in the late '80s. "It was physically falling apart," Pollack said. In addition, it was too shallow for competitive swimming, and its starting blocks were on the wrong side. High maintenance costs also contributed to the decision to drain the pool, leaving behind today's multi-purpose room.

Wait, *what* were the students growing?

• Shaker students were cultivating plants long before the inception of Chia Pets. "The school greenhouse was on the third floor, off of the foreign language department," said social studies teacher Terry Pollack. Student botanists cared for plants after school and during their lunch hours on a volunteer basis. However, Pollack, who has been here for more then 40 years said that the district chose to remove the greenhouse due to rising heating costs and leakage throughout the facility.

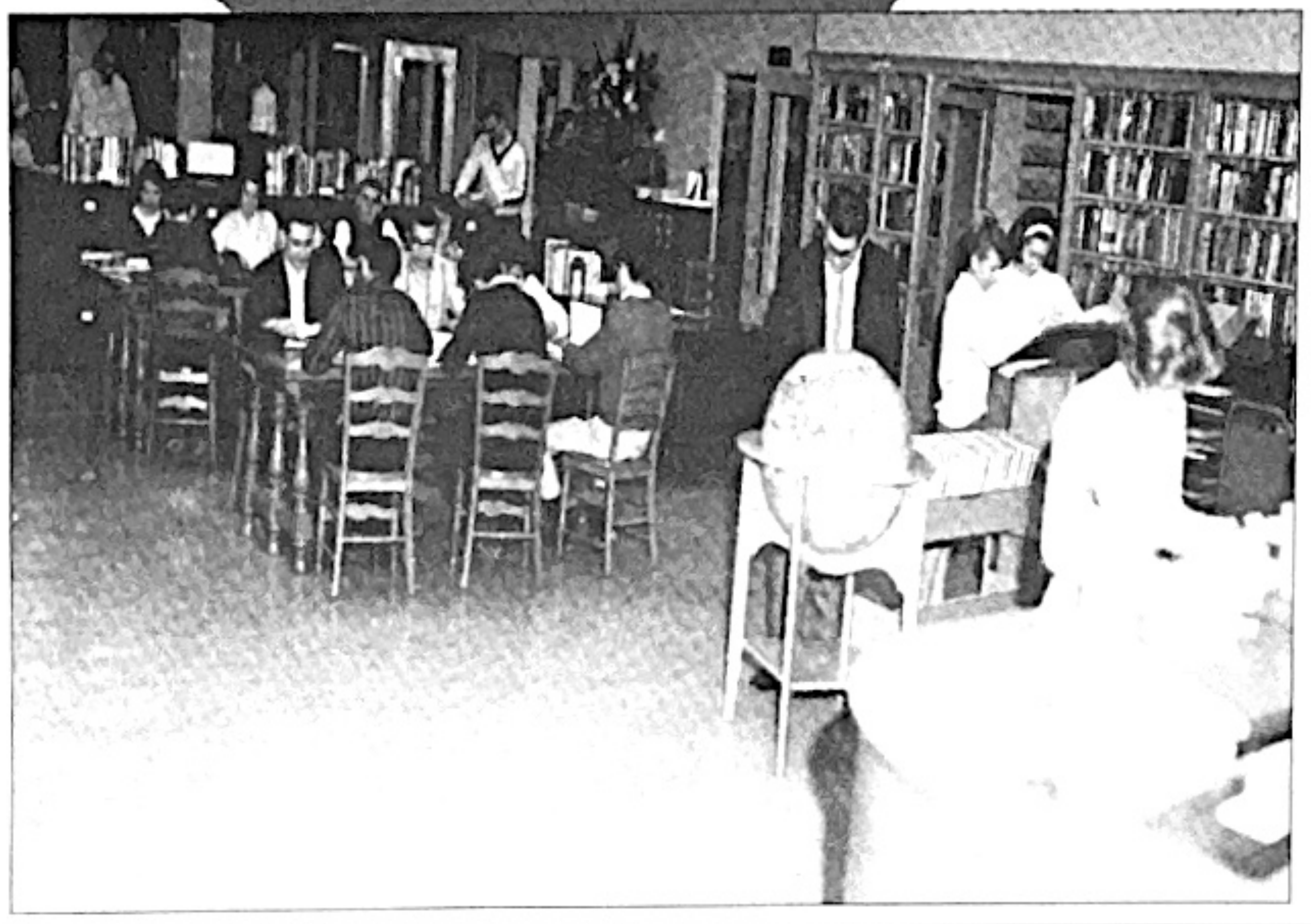
BLAST from the PAST

•Up Front documents high school's face-lifts *over the years*

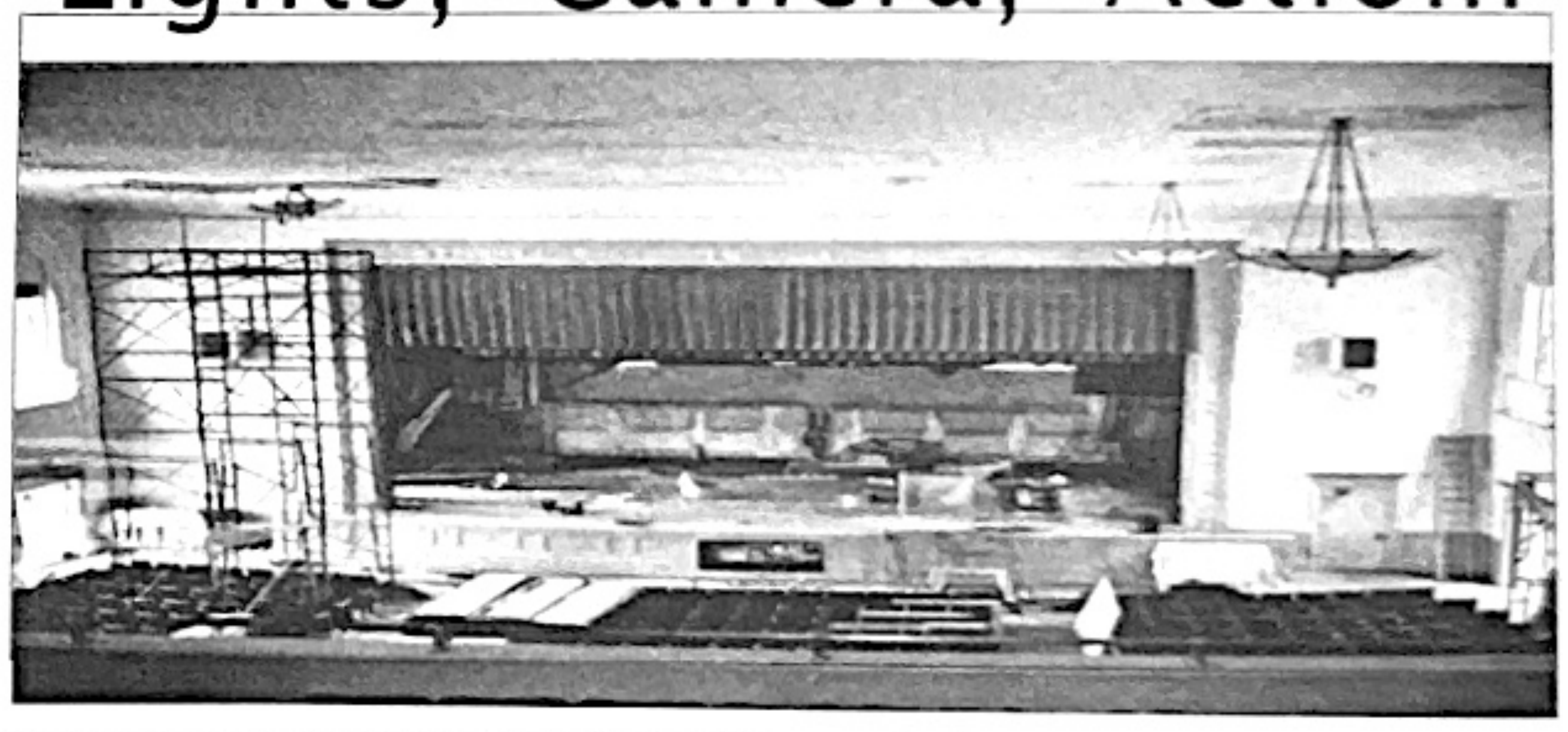


This is a silent study area, or used to be

• Getting from the library to study hall used to require only a few steps. As part of the first major renovation of the library since this 1960 photograph, the stairway connecting the study hall room and the library was removed. Long study tables with chairs were replaced with individual study areas, and the wood trim was stripped away. The reference desk was relocated to the center of the library. "They doubled the size of the library by closing the window to the teacher's cafeteria," Pollack said.

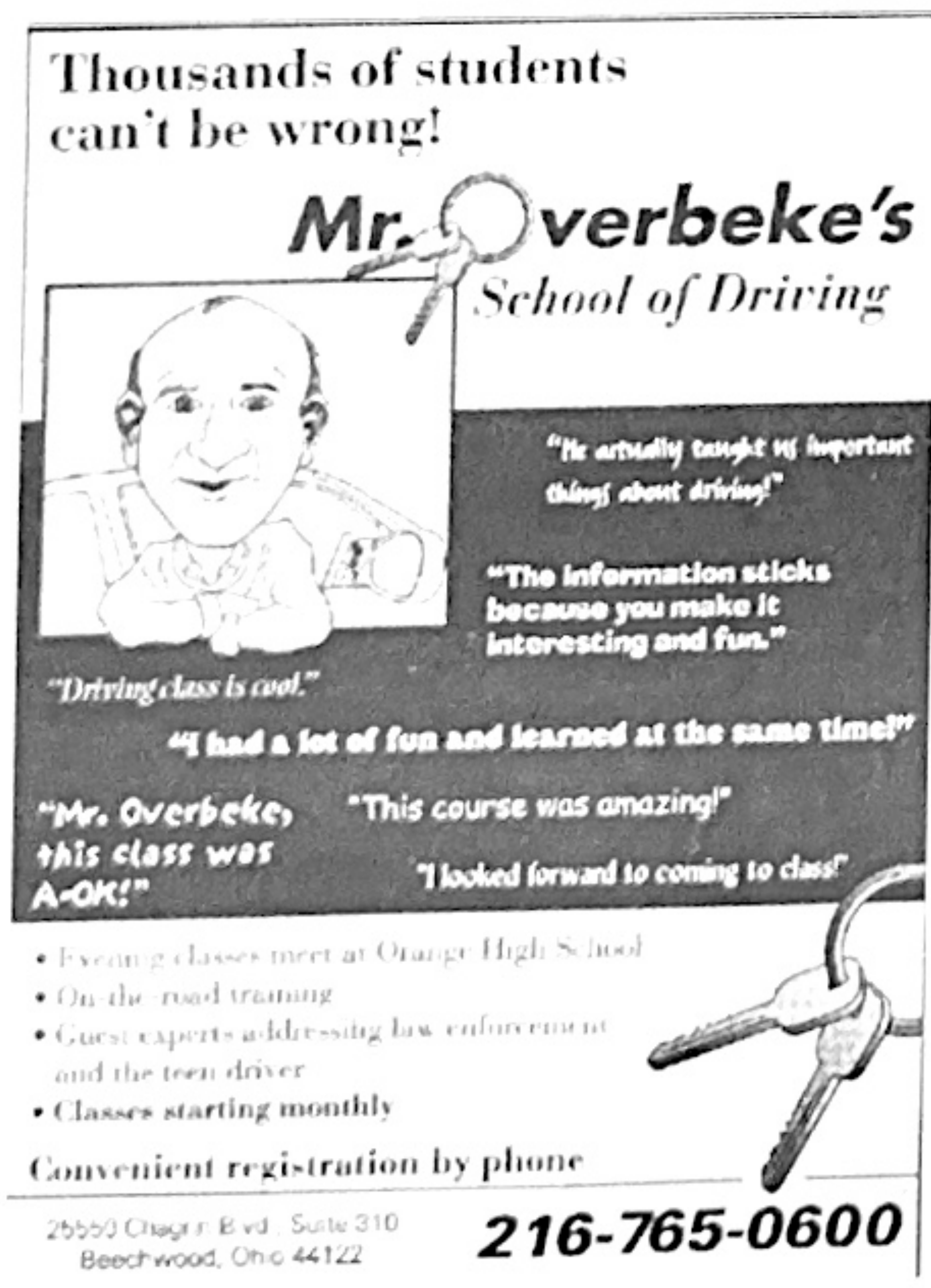


Lights, Camera, Action!



• No really. There have actually been changes in the large auditorium since this picture in August 1961. Students welcomed the 1961-1962 school year with a brand new auditorium. Renovations included new lighting, a theatrical switchboard and a new sound system. Shakespeare never sounded so good.

Compiled by David Morgenstern from the local archives and history department at the Shaker Heights Public Library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Shakerite
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corrections and clarifications.

• In the Feb. 6, 2004 issue of The Shakerite, headlines for a story reporting the death of Andrew Psarras ('02) stated his death was "blamed on drugs" and referred to an "initial coroner's report." The reference to an initial report from the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office was an error. No such report exists. An employee of the coroner's office, contacted by phone, shared the information contained in the article with a Shakerite reporter.

• In the Feb. 6, 2004 issue of The Shakerite, a grant aiding the Multi-Disabilities program was misidentified as aiding the Learning Disabilities program.

• In the Feb. 6, 2004 issue of The Shakerite, Beachwood student Jason Ross was misidentified as Jason Roth.

• The Feb. 6, 2004 Rite Idea misidentified new course offerings for the social studies department. The three new courses offered for 2004-2005 are AP World Experience History, American History Through Film, and Facing History and Changing the Future.

• The Shakerite regrets the errors.

OOPS!

The Plain Dealer reported on Feb. 23 that Kent State University printed and mailed diplomas to December graduates with the word "privileges" misspelled, due to a problem with new software. Graduates have been asked to write "VOID" on their diplomas and send them back to Kent State. Registrar Roberta Sikula said that from now on, someone will proofread the diplomas.

"Trust me, this won't be a problem ever again," she said.

Policy change may end front-lawn camp out

By Becca Bonthius
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The grand finale of senior year is the front-lawn camp-out the Friday before senior project starts. But the day-long tradition and car parade around the oval are in question because the events can distract people who are still in school.

"That day is so much of a waste it's not even worth it," said math teacher Walter Slovikovski, senior project director.

Principal Michael Griffith acknowledges the distractions but says that he has been pleased with the seniors' behavior in the past. "I've had no issue with how that's worked out," he said.

Yet minimizing the disruptions would be beneficial, according to Slovikovski. "We want to make sure that . . . the day is productive for the rest of the school," he said.

"We've talked about it for years," Griffith said of the possible change. "It's just to find a balance, to keep the right tone inside and outside."

Griffith said that though there is no formal proposal, he predicts a policy change in the next few months.

On the long-awaited Friday, project-bound seniors enter the building to turn in checkout forms with teachers' signatures, verifying their passing grades. They also visit the treasurer's office to ascertain that they don't owe any fines. Slovikovski said that the process should only take a few minutes if students have already paid and collected signatures. "If there's no problem, the checkout is very efficient," he said. He added that disruptions are "not because of our forms."

Griffith, however, sees this process as a source of distraction. "We've created a procedure that makes them come into the building," he said, suggesting a change in the time or location of the checkout could solve the problem.

Slovikovski said that another solution would employ a testing schedule so that seniors would be the only students at school until 10 a.m. "The only people expected in the building [later] would be non-senior project seniors and the entire ninth, tenth and eleventh grades."

Junior Jamie Breese, however, does not think the day is especially distracting. "On a day-to-day basis you have just as much a problem with noise and people in the halls," she said. "In my English class we just pulled down the shades so we wouldn't get distracted. You kind of get over it by third or fourth period."

Senior Steve Heard said he would be upset if the tradition was changed. "It's a good thing because it's the last day that we're actually in school together. It's a good vibe."

Courtesy of the Gristmill

THE THOUGHT OF going to class on the last day before senior project didn't occur to these '03 seniors. The traditional camp-out is the highlight of senior year at Shaker. The administration is currently considering implementing new policies to prevent unnecessary distractions to underclassmen in the school building caused by overexcited seniors.

Aggressive Internet filter takes students, faculty by surprise

By Emily Grannis
NEWS EDITOR

When freshman Marvin Harvey started to work on an English project about Auschwitz, he didn't expect to have problems getting information. However, he found that the library computer blocked some websites about the Nazi concentration camp due to explicit photographs.

"I tried to go, but it didn't let me go there because of nudity," Harvey said.

The filtering system that interrupted Harvey's research was implemented around finals week. The Bess filter allows the school to block sites in up to 38 categories. Shaker chose to block 26 categories, including sex- and drug-related sites. Except for Lakewood and Orange, all schools in the Lakeshore Northeast Ohio Computer Association use Bess. LNOCA is an online database Shaker uses for attendance and grade records. The filter costs about $700 per year plus the cost of hardware to protect the district's 1,220 computers.

The filter took many students and faculty by surprise, including Principal Michael Griffith.

"We initially didn't know why we couldn't get the access," Griffith said. "I don't think people understood the degree to which it would limit certain sites."

The system first concerned students when they couldn't access sports and entertainment sites. Junior Christopher Inniss encountered the filter while trying to find information about an actor in "Grapes of Wrath," a movie he was watching in English.

"I wanted to know if the same guy that played Grandpa was in 'It's a Wonderful Life,'" Inniss said. "I understand . . . that you can't get to porn, but this kind of stuff . . . it wasn't bad at all!"

Librarian Patricia Lawrence said students in fashion design have had the most difficulty with the new filter.

"We're still in that time period of adjusting it to fit Shaker," Lawrence said. "I encourage kids to respond, but they better be respectful."

SEE FILTER PAGE 4

Alliance senior elected to serve on city council

•Cody Combs campaigned to encourage teen involvement

By Lauren Weiss
COPY EDITOR

Cody Combs has always balanced athletics, school and various jobs, so adding one more item to the list wasn't a big deal.

Instead of another club, however, the high school senior at St. Thomas Aquinas won a seat on Alliance City Council.

Combs officially became a candidate for the position on his 18th birthday, the minimum age for candidates by state law, in March 2003 and was elected to a two-year term in November.

At the first council meeting on Jan. 5, 2004, he was assigned a position on the properties and lands committee and helped pass an ordinance that makes it easier for local businesses to get loans.

FOCUS • Reasons for you to tune into politics •page 16

"All of the other council members have been great," Combs said in an e-mail interview. "We helped each other out and treated each other with the utmost respect, because all politics aside, it's about doing what's right for the city as a whole."

Combs decided to run for the position in order to get other Alliance teens involved in politics. He feels this has succeeded and that some of his friends may even major in political science as a result.

"I never envisioned beyond my wildest dreams that it would make so many people reflect on politics and current events in general. When this happens, everybody is a winner," he said.

From March until the election, Combs led a grassroots campaign that included yard signs, a billboard and going door-to-door. His slogan told voters he was someone they "could grow and learn with," turning his age into a positive.

Combs' close friends became his election advisers and Science Club, one of four clubs he is involved in at school, became a "campaign machine" to organize and modify his campaign.

He contends that anyone who enters a political race has to be serious about winning, but Combs admits he only thought there was a "slight chance" of him getting elected.

"We [the campaign team] received a lot of "oh that's a great thing you're doing," or "wow this is cool," but we weren't sure how many of those comments would translate into votes," he said.

Not everyone feels Combs is old enough for a serious role in politics. Mark Roller, a councilman in Alliance from 1996 to 2003, doesn't feel an 18-year-old is able to deal with issues such as Alliance's $40 million budget and how to keep the struggling city viable.

"He's very smart, not you're typical teen," he said.

"However, it's not the kind of job for someone who's so young. There are serious matters effecting a lot of people. It doesn't matter how talented, how much potential someone has. You want someone with the life experience, who knows what it's like to have a job, care for a family."

Combs isn't planning on letting anything stop him. Over the next two years, he wants to make the council more receptive to what the people want and he plans to run for reelection in two years.

In order to be able to attend city council meetings while at college, Combs is applying to Walsh University and the College of Wooster, both of which as close to home.

"I would love to be in public service for as long as possible," he said. "It blends media, current events and people into a seamless mix. That is right up my alley."

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Cody Rose
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Kelly Schaefer
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William Seitz
Ashali Singham
Mark Vieyra

Semifinalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program
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December Kinney

National Merit Commended Students
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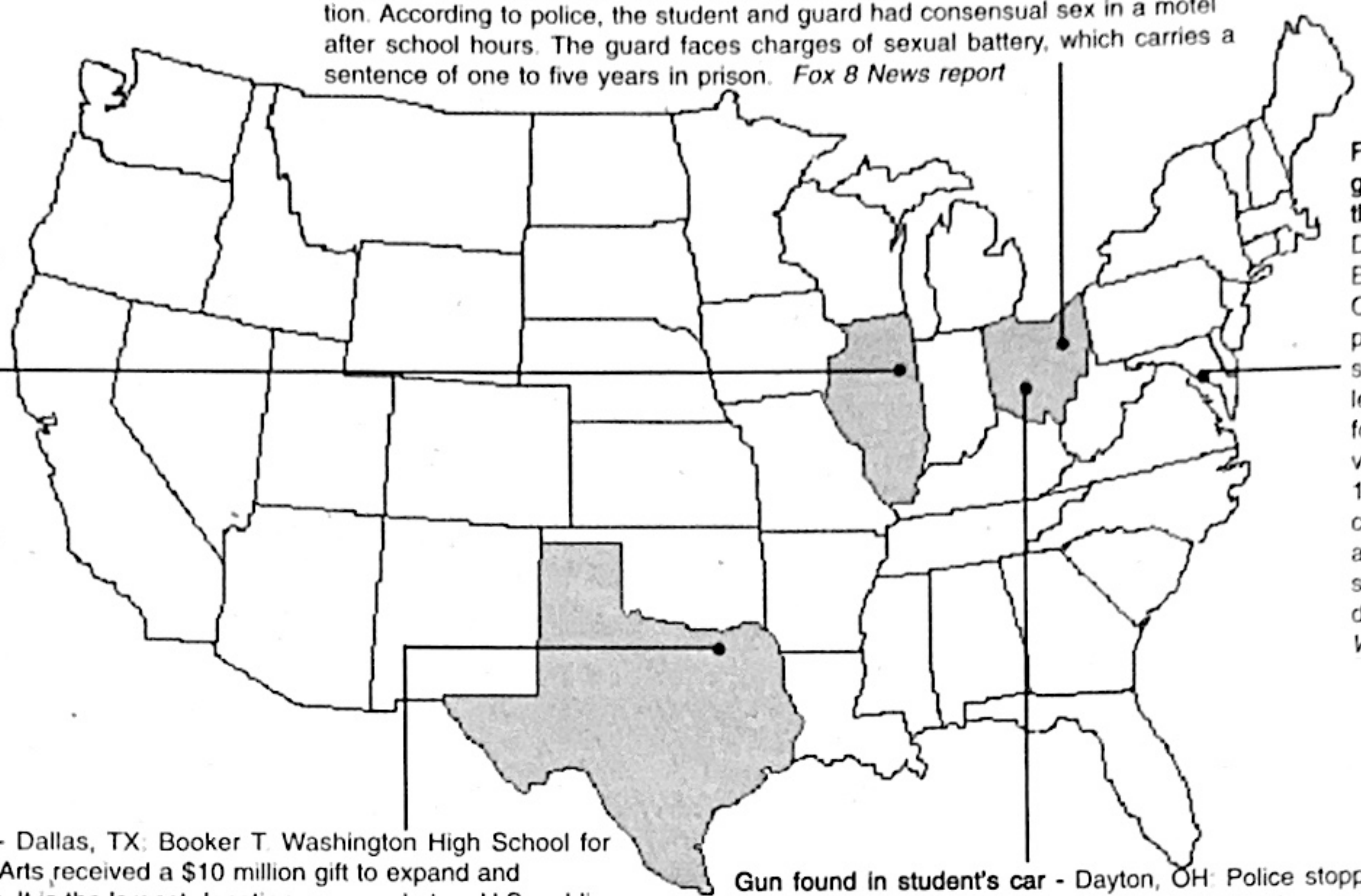
Christopher Chin
Jonathan Distad
David Morgenstern
Emily Ozan
Alix Schrager
Selena Simmons-Duffin
Kevin Strang

National Achievement Commended Students
Hayes Anderson
Betty Elee
Amber Lovejoy-Rezek
Denise Mack
Brittany Watkins
Laura Falender
Mitch Frank
Nicole Goddard
Ryan Hacala
Clifford Harding
Andrew Hopkins
Timothy Israel
December Kinney
Michael Koler
Andrea Kutik

News in the Nation

Sometimes hogging the ball is a good thing - Streator, IL: Superintendent Bill Mattingly allegedly told senior guard Wes Hood, a black basketball player, to pass the ball to his white teammates more. Hood told his coach and his mother about the incident, and though Mattingly has made a formal apology, the school board will investigate.
CNN.com

Security guard-student relationship exposed - Lyndhurst: A Brush High School security guard resigned from his position after news of his relationship with a 17-year-old female student was made known to the school's administration. According to police, the student and guard had consensual sex in a motel after school hours. The guard faces charges of sexual battery, which carries a sentence of one to five years in prison. *Fox 8 News report*



Federal government gives charter schools the OK - Washington, D.C.: President George Bush visited Archbishop Carroll High School, a private Catholic school, to show his support for new legislation that provides for the first federal voucher plan for about 1,700 students in the capital, allowing them to attend private/religious schools on the taxpayers' dime.
Washingtonpost.com

More money for the arts - Dallas, TX: Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts received a $10 million gift to expand and renovate the aging building. It is the largest donation ever made to a U.S. public art school. The publicly and privately funded project will commence in 2005.
Dallasnews.com

Gun found in student's car - Dayton, OH: Police stopped a Belmont High School student for rolling through a stop sign. After arresting the three teenage occupants, police searched the stolen Oldsmobile and found a gun in the passenger's seat. The driver denied placing the gun in the car. A 17-year-old passenger has been charged with delinquency regarding the weapon.
daytondailynews.com

Compiled by Betty Elee

Federal child Internet law brings Bess online

FROM FILTER PAGE 3

The Bess software allows students who believe school-appropriate sites are blocked to send an email message to network manager Walter Boswell, who will then review the site and remove the restriction if he deems it appropriate.

Executive Director of Curriculum Jim Paces said the administration is open to student comments and will consider complaints case-by-case.

"We want it to be open if there's interest . . . if students or faculty felt a reason to go to a site, we would review the instance," Paces said. "Our hope is that we're not involved in a censorship issue."

Boswell admitted that initially, the filter was very strong and caused problems for teachers and students.

"When we first brought it up, we were bringing it quite aggressively," Boswell said.

The district has since unblocked the sports category and relaxed other aspects of the filter. Shaker recently added a fourth T1 line (the system's equivalent to a supercharged modem for Internet access). Boswell said more and more websites today feature streaming video, which uses lots of bandwidth. The additional T1 line increases access, reducing the need for aggressive filtering.

The filter was also introduced to comply with a federal law about public schools' Internet use. Through the Children's Internet Protection Act, passed in December 2000, Congress set Internet filtering standards schools must meet before receiving federal aid for telecommunications costs.

Assistant Treasurer Joe Kubit said the federal government gave Shaker $52,636.93 last year in E-rate funding. David Puffer, the district's business administrator, explained that in 2003, the E-rate system provided a 40 percent reduction in the district's telecommunications bill, which includes the cost of T1 lines.

Another issue the district must confront concerns the record of all websites accessed using school computers. That information is public, so everyone, including parents, taxpayers and news outlets, has the right to see it. Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell said a local news station requested the records last year during a ratings sweeps period, but did not televise a report based on the documents.

Caldwell added the new filter is actually more lenient than the previous one the district used and is supported by the district's policy on acceptable use of technology.

"This is more flexible than the one we had before in that it allows for adjustment for educational sites," said Caldwell, who added that students can access many sites filtered at school by visiting the public library. "Public libraries aren't subject to nearly as many restrictions," she said.

Lawrence thought that once the initial shock of the filter wore off, students and faculty were able to return to nearly normal Internet use.

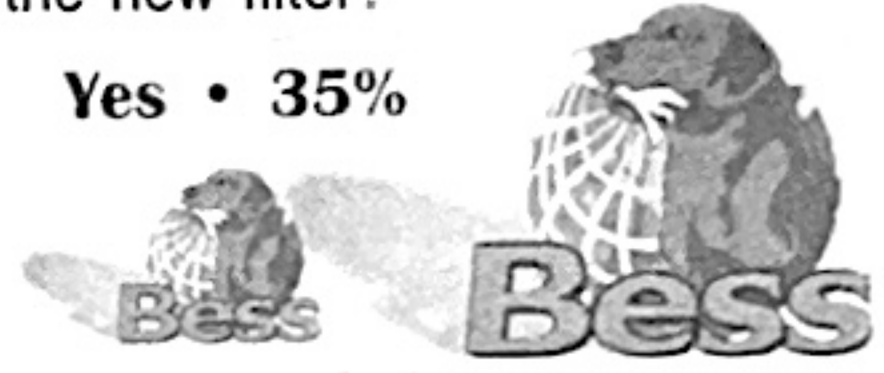
"At first it was annoying, but we got over it," she said.

OPINION • 'Rite Idea on the new Internet filter •page 6

Do you think the administration should have told students about the new filter?

No • 65%

Yes • 35%



Scientific poll of 77 students with a margin of error of +/- 11%. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

Bank seeks buyer for renovated but struggling square

FROM SQUARE PAGE 1

"For me, business has been great," said Doug Katz, the owner of Fire, an upscale restaurant at Shaker Square. "Shaker Square is a great community with a community feeling."

Richard Geldenmeister, who works at the Shaker Square Joseph- Beth Booksellers, said the opening of a new Joseph-Beth's at Legacy Village hasn't caused customers to stop coming to the Shaker Square location.

"Our customers are very loyal; they really want this bookstore to succeed at Shaker Square because they want the Square to succeed," Geldenmeister said.

Recently, crime has been a problem for Shaker Square. There have been several reports of muggings, including one where the mugger threatened his victims with a screwdriver.

The recent job cuts within the Cleveland Police Department have raised further concerns about whether Shaker Square will continue to be watched by police.

However, a Cleveland Police Lieutenant representing the Fifth District said this will not be an issue.

"The job cuts don't affect black-and-white [patrol vehicles] coverage, only the specialized units," he said.

There have also been reports that the Shaker Heights Police Department might begin to patrol Shaker Square.

Senior Dominique Sherrill, who lives next to Shaker Square, has noticed a decrease in shoppers at the Square, especially teens. She attributes this partially to the crime.

"A lot of the parents see the crime here and they're more protective. Parents are scared," Sherrill said. "No type of crime has happened to anyone I know around here, but I know it happens."

According to a Shakerite poll, 94 percent of students say that reports of recent crimes have discouraged them from going to Shaker Square.

Rosen Associates Development Inc. and Center Point Properties have owned Shaker Square since the 1999 renovation, which, despite costing $23 million, appeared to help the Square little in its economic struggles. They recently handed over their ownership rights to Key Bank, saying that they suffered financial losses due to few shoppers. The Sun Press reported that Key Bank is nearing a decision to resell the Square to one of 13 potential buyers, some of whom are locally based.

Shaker Square is trying to keep its family-friendly reputation, raise the number of shoppers and reduce crime.

Businesses that have been successful, such as Fire, have kept the Square alive thus far, and Arabica, which closed at Shaker Square before the 1999 renovation, now plans to reopen on the Square.

Playmatters Creative Toys employee Lee Reis enjoys the Square.

"There are really nice shops, it's a great area to do things with other people, it's a great place in general," Reis said.

WE CARE FOR
SHAKER SQUARE

Hilary Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE

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Amy Wain Garnitz (SHHS '76)
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the News Desk

Review book collection starts

The school library is asking for all used exam preparation books for student use. Student Council brought the idea to the librarians, who welcomed it. The new system will help defray the cost of preparing for standardized tests.

Test preparation books are a costly investment. On Amazon.com, test prep books range from $13.97 to $22.40, depending on whether a CD-Rom is attached or multiple practice tests included.

"I think the idea was developed to share information with others, to help prepare all students for success and to keep students striving for excellence," librarian Dawn Sullivan stated.

No donations have been made yet.

-Meghan Thompson

Sun Press journalist visits ICC

Sun Press editor Mary Jane Skala shared stories of her expedition to Israel with the Israeli Culture Club Feb. 19. The Jewish Community Federation, which routinely sends selected patrons to Israel, funded the 10-day trip in November for 75 people. The tour bus traveled through several cities, such as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem; they also made a lengthy stop at the Western Wall, a place of great spiritual "passion and emotion," according to Skala. Such annual trips serve the purpose of raising cultural awareness and, more specifically, alerting people to the Israeli-Palestine conflict. Skala returned feeling grateful that she had had the experience, yet pessimistic about the ongoing apathy regarding the situation. "I came home feeling the world doesn't care about Israel nor cares to understand Israel," Skala said.

-Betty Elee

MONDAYS 9P
everwood
all new
fresh from the frog
Cleveland's
WB
Watch the frog.

Cost of a Mitchell and Ness 1987 Ron Harper throwback jersey: $350
Cost of Mitchell and Ness Chicago Bulls throwback warm-ups: $385
Cost of a Mitchell and Ness Boston Celtics throwback satin jacket: $350
Cost of a varsity Shaker men's basketball jersey: $85
Cost of a varsity Shaker men's basketball warm-ups: $110
Minimum cost of a Shaker varsity jacket: $200
Source: Mitchell and Ness, Shaker Athletic Department

Can't we all just get along?

Betty "the Boop" Elee and Emily "litl' Gran" Grannis were chillin' outside on the icy curb, mindin' their own business when the cell phone rang. It was some Lakewood punk griping about what the Raiders could go raid in their free time. After the speaker emitted a screeching cackle, Emily rolled her eyes and quickly turned off the phone. She decided their call was totally un-kosher to the Shaker name and immediately got on the phone with Will "Willy Wem" Wemer and Becca "Big B" Bonthius. They promptly rushed over in their red minivan. Tossing aside her calc book, Boop sat up and whipped out a copy of The Shakerite.

BETTY ELEE
NEWS EDITOR

EMILY GRANNIS
NEWS EDITOR

"We'll get those meanies!"she shouted angrily, evoking similar reactions from her co-editors.

Hopping in the van, they sped at a dangerous 30 mph to Lakewood, Ohio, home of the Rangers. Finally, after combing the town for their challengers, they spotted them on the swing set of the elementary school playground. As Willy Wem struggled to find a legal parking space, Big B, the Boop and Littl' Gran charged the play set.

Frightened kindergarteners ran screaming from the scene as Will joined them and the four approached the 15 Lakewood high schoolers. In one motion, all four pulled out their newspapers and rolled them up, smacking their hands with the papers in time with their steps. In response, the Lakewooders Matrix-flipped toward the Shaker editors, throwing mulch at them.

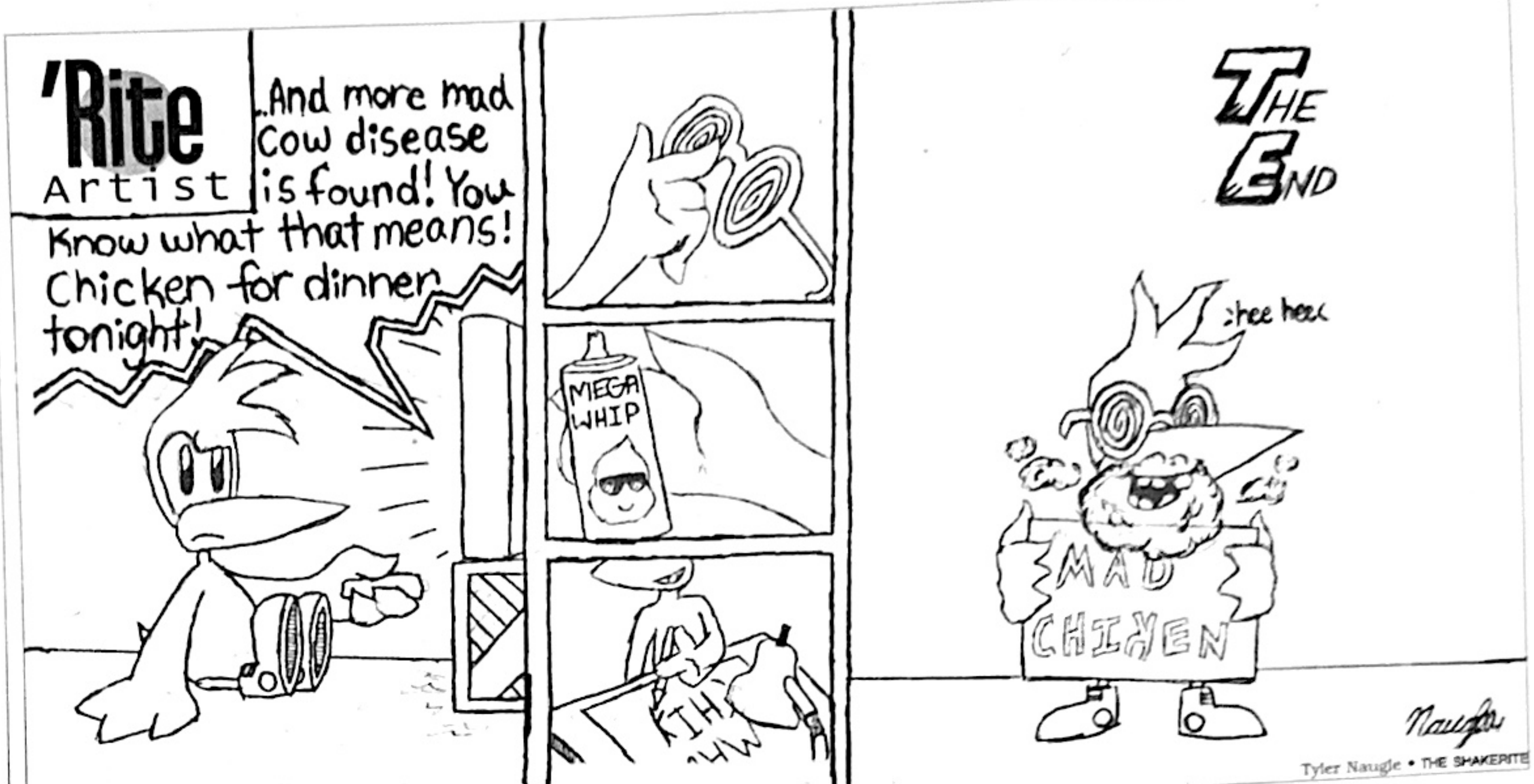
The fight escalated with the introduction of kick balls, left behind by the terrified 5-year-olds, and lasted until the school's security guard came out and broke it up.

After the guard kicked the combatants off the premises, the four Shaker students returned to their van, only to find that it had been plastered with Lakewood Rangers stickers. The editors took this as a direct challenge, jumped in the van and drove to a Lakewood student's house.

Maybe the Shaker editors were in the right for defending their school name; maybe the Lakewooders had a "beat down" coming to them. Kids fight all the time -- nothing new, right?

Wrong! There's something seriously amiss in this high school when random kids to decide to pick fights with other schools' kids for superficial reasons. Though it can be argued that loyalty and pride are values worth defending, there is a snowball effect to these fights that leaves the original motives long forgotten. What's going on here? It's illogical to continue in this Mafioso style, with no end to the fighting in sight.

Although the rivalries build up due to imaginary differences between the students at opposing schools, we are all still kids trying to survive high school, succeed in life and find some kind of happy medium. Take note: fighting isn't it.


'Rite Artist
.And more mad cow disease is found! You know what that means! Chicken for dinner tonight!
MEGA WHIP
THE END
shee hee
MAD CHIKEN
Naugle
Tyler Naugle • THE SHAKERITE

Internet filter restricts learning

With little advance notice or consultation, the school district installed a new Internet filter named Bess last month. The filter initially blocked virtually every website high school students would need to access for any purpose — at one point even the search engine Google was blocked. Although Bess' overzealous blocking of websites lasted only for a week, it rendered useless the district's research capabilities.

Filtering what students can view on the Internet is a touchy subject at Shaker. The district prides itself on being progressive, yet it must monitor what students can view for its own sake.

Imagine the public outcries if a news organization were to report that students were using tax-funded computers and Internet services improperly.

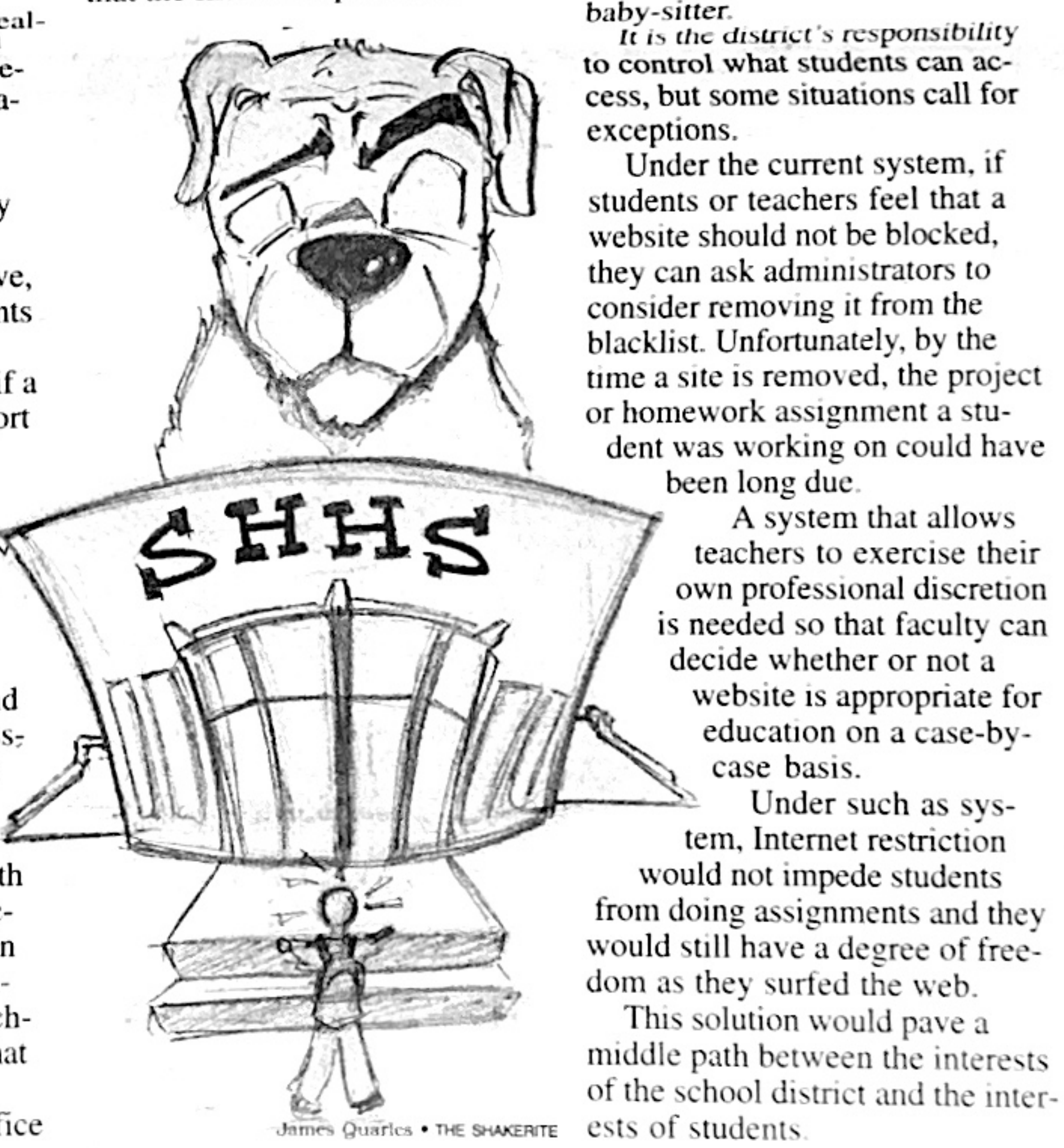
According to the administration, the filter's purpose is to save bandwidth (the computer energy available for Internet surfing) and money and to prohibit students from accessing inappropriate or non-school relevant material.

Students were purportedly using too much of the bandwidth allotted to the high school to access extracurricular material. In addition, the district receives increased amounts of federal technology funding if it restricts what students do on the Internet.

The district should not sacrifice the integrity of its mission for financial or bandwidth reasons. It is more important for students to be able to obtain the information they need than to have faster Internet access.

Bess' logo is a benign looking Labrador retriever, which implies that the filter is in place for the protection of students. The levels of restriction at the high school, however, are too strict for our age group. The previous filter blocked enough websites to impede immature high school students who tried to view inappropriate material. Bess goes too far in its restrictions, playing the role of baby-sitter.

It is the district's responsibility to control what students can access, but some situations call for exceptions.



James Quarles • THE SHAKERITE

Under the current system, if students or teachers feel that a website should not be blocked, they can ask administrators to consider removing it from the blacklist. Unfortunately, by the time a site is removed, the project or homework assignment a student was working on could have been long due.

A system that allows teachers to exercise their own professional discretion is needed so that faculty can decide whether or not a website is appropriate for education on a case-by-case basis.

Under such as system, Internet restriction would not impede students from doing assignments and they would still have a degree of freedom as they surfed the web.

This solution would pave a middle path between the interests of the school district and the interests of students.

'Rite the Idea

The district *should not sacrifice the* integrity of its mission for financial or bandwidth reasons. It is more important for students to be able to obtain the information they need than to have faster Internet access.

Letter to the editor

Curriculum reform should focus on study skills, not diverse course offerings

To the editor:

In the last issue of The Shakerite, the 'Rite Idea called upon the Social Studies Department to update its courses "to include classes that examine the pressing issues of our world . . ." While I applaud this idea, I felt that this call was misplaced in its priorities. The energy that you suggested placing into achieving more diverse courses could be better used.

Our school is divided, facing a stubborn achievement gap, as well as a major divide between the AP and CP levels of instruction, and The Shakerite urges us to request more courses on obscure topics. These topics are relevant, but are they necessary? A goal of high school is to prepare students for colleges, where they can study these topics from professors.

Social studies should focus on making sure that all students have good teachers teaching crucial learning skills. I recall teachers noting that some students had not learned how to productively take notes or budget time properly. These issues need to be addressed by the high school; those basic skills must be taught. I agree that improvement is necessary, but we need an improvement of quality before we increase the quantity.

Mark Vieyra,senior

Where is our Diet Coke!?!

10-Second tick-off

We've earned free periods and our own in-school lounge, and we can't choose our soda?! There are 12 different types of drinks sold in the senior lounge. What is missing? DIET COKE!! We're health-conscious. Soda's no orange juice, but zero calories is better than 160. Plus, we need the caffeine and we like the taste. Diet Pepsi IS sold in the fencing room, but those machines aren't turned on until 3 p.m. If the regular pop is available to us, why can't we have diet?!

Hallie Dietsch and Jessica Miller, seniors

What lies beyond the teacher's armor

the Guest 'Rite

Wolpaw

The title of the 1998 yearbook was "As you were." Now, for me, that "you" has become "we." The way we were. If you open that repertoire of memories to the first page, you will find a wild group of undershirt-clad, face-painted, '98-chanting members of the senior class, and right in the middle you will see one especially brazen young gentleman who, unbeknownst to him at the time, was destined to return five years later in a very different capacity. And now here I am, a member of what five years ago we would have called the dark side — if we have even considered it as a side — that a sane person would choose to join. As I look back on the way we were then, what's most interesting is comparing what we knew, what we thought we knew and what — although we would never admit it — we didn't know to what I know now — the insight I have gained on what is going on behind the teachers' armor. I can still remember what we thought and didn't think about teachers five years ago, and this memory allows me to make a unique comparison between how students think of teachers and how teachers really are.

The teacher-student dynamic is very similar to the parent-child interaction in several significant ways. Teenagers tend to think that their parents are out to make their lives less fun, to restrict them out of some innate parental meanness and to foil their attempts at social progress whenever possible. What many of us realize, as we gain some separation from this dynamic in college, is that the only real motivation driving parents is love. They want the best for us, and they are willing to risk everything, even their relationship with us, to try to protect us and guide us in the best way they know how. You can fault the methods, but you cannot fault the motivation.

Believe it or not, the teacher-student dynamic is often driven by the same forces. Students tend to see teachers as a larger, more mobile form of textbook. The school gives it to you, you are supposed to listen to what it says, it tells you to do assignments, and you are supposed to learn from it. However, it also has no feelings (being just a book) and therefore it can be ignored and mistreated with no remorse, and it certainly doesn't care about you.

The amazing discovery that I have made this year is that high school teachers actually do care — and care deeply — about their students. The amount of work they dedicate to helping their students learn is astounding. But more astounding still is the amount of themselves they put into the effort. The quantity of hope and caring is enormous, yet at the same time often invisible to students. Behind closed doors, once the classes have filed out for the day, teachers do not — as we sometimes believed — simply relax with a cup of coffee and a nice new textbook to read. Teachers are constantly thinking about their students, and not just how they are performing in class. They worry about what kind of people they are becoming, what kind of lives they will lead, what kind of happiness they will find. The strict, even angry demeanor that students often see on display belies the tender hope that thrives below the surface. Yelling, anger, detentions, referrals, rules, angry stares — all of these are simply attempts to help guide students into being the amazing people teachers know they can be and hope against hope they will be. You can certainly fault the methods, but if you take a moment to understand the motivation, that, at least, is beyond reproach.

So next time you find yourself thinking, "Man I hate Mr./Ms. ________" or "Mr./Ms. _______ is the jakest," take a moment to realize that despite what you may think, they most certainly do not feel the same way about you. They may not show it, and they may not even know how to let you know, but they care and care deeply about you, who you are and who you will become.

So what was the way we were? We never realized this about the men and women at the front of the classroom. I, for one, wish I had. It certainly would have changed the way I felt about and interacted with some of my teachers. So the next time you see a mean stare coming at you from the eyes of a teacher, look a little harder and you may be surprised at what you find behind that armored glare. Sometimes the dark side is only dark because we never bother to shine a light there.

Harsh ring of judgment

AVIVA ARIEL
FOCUS EDITOR

One day last month, I walked into an office building on Chagrin Boulevard as an innocent, quiet little girl and walked out 25 minutes later a smoking, drinking, hell-raising teenage slut.

Oh wait, that's wrong. Let me start over. I had wanted an eyebrow piercing for a month when my parents agreed to let me get a small ring.

The first day I came to school with my silver, steel friend positioned above my right eye, people I didn't even know offered their opinions on my "new and crazy personality." A girl from my freshmen Global Studies class approached me in the bathroom. "You got your eyebrow pierced? That is soooo not you!" she commented to me. My initial thought was, "This is sooo none of your business," but instead I smiled and walked away.

Later that day, another friend approached me in shock. "You must be so dangerous and wild," he said, but it didn't stop there. "I never expected it from you, but you probably get so drunk on the weekends that your friends have to drive you home." Well that was flattering, as most of the kids who get plastered on the weekends are so clean-cut and preppy in their appearance it hurts your teeth to look at them. I continued this pattern of smiling and laughing, even when a friend jokingly called me a dirty whore, not that you can really ever say that as a joke (Try it on a big sister, a parent or a large friend and see how hard they laugh.)

I came home, a little shaken by my new image as the Paris Hilton of Shaker Heights, and told my mother about the day's commentary. My mother shook her head sadly. "Ah, yes. First an eyebrow piercing, then sex, drugs and alcohol — and after that, God knows." It strikes me as funny that my mother, a nice middle-aged lady, turns out to be more open-minded than Shaker's outspoken students.

After all the remarks and friendly assaults in the hallways, one question remains in my bejeweled, but bewildered, head: How could this tiny incision completely transform others' perceptions of me? I'm a short girl with red curly hair, not widely known for wearing black leather, handling a whip or generally being a badass. How did a tiny silver hoop turn me into the poster child for Girls Gone Wild?

Shaker surprised me. I didn't realize that we prize racial and religious diversity, but prefer that people not be piercing-ly diverse. If we could consider people for who they are, as the great Martin Luther King, Jr. said, judge others "by the content of their character," we might make a little more progress as human beings. If we approach others openly, without prejudice, even if they have a piece of metal smack dab in the middle of their faces, then maybe we can become a truly accepting community. So don't judge me on the gauge of the hole, color of my ring or my selected brand of piercing cleanser any more than you would judge me on my neatly organized school planner or the quality of my shoelaces.

But finally, the answers to your burning questions about me post-pierce: No, you won't find me smoking at the triangle before the first bell, having sex in the third floor bathroom during ninth period or shooting up in some dark alley in downtown Cleveland. Well, at least not any more or less frequently than I did before I got pierced.

Heaven Help Us, Revolve Is Here!

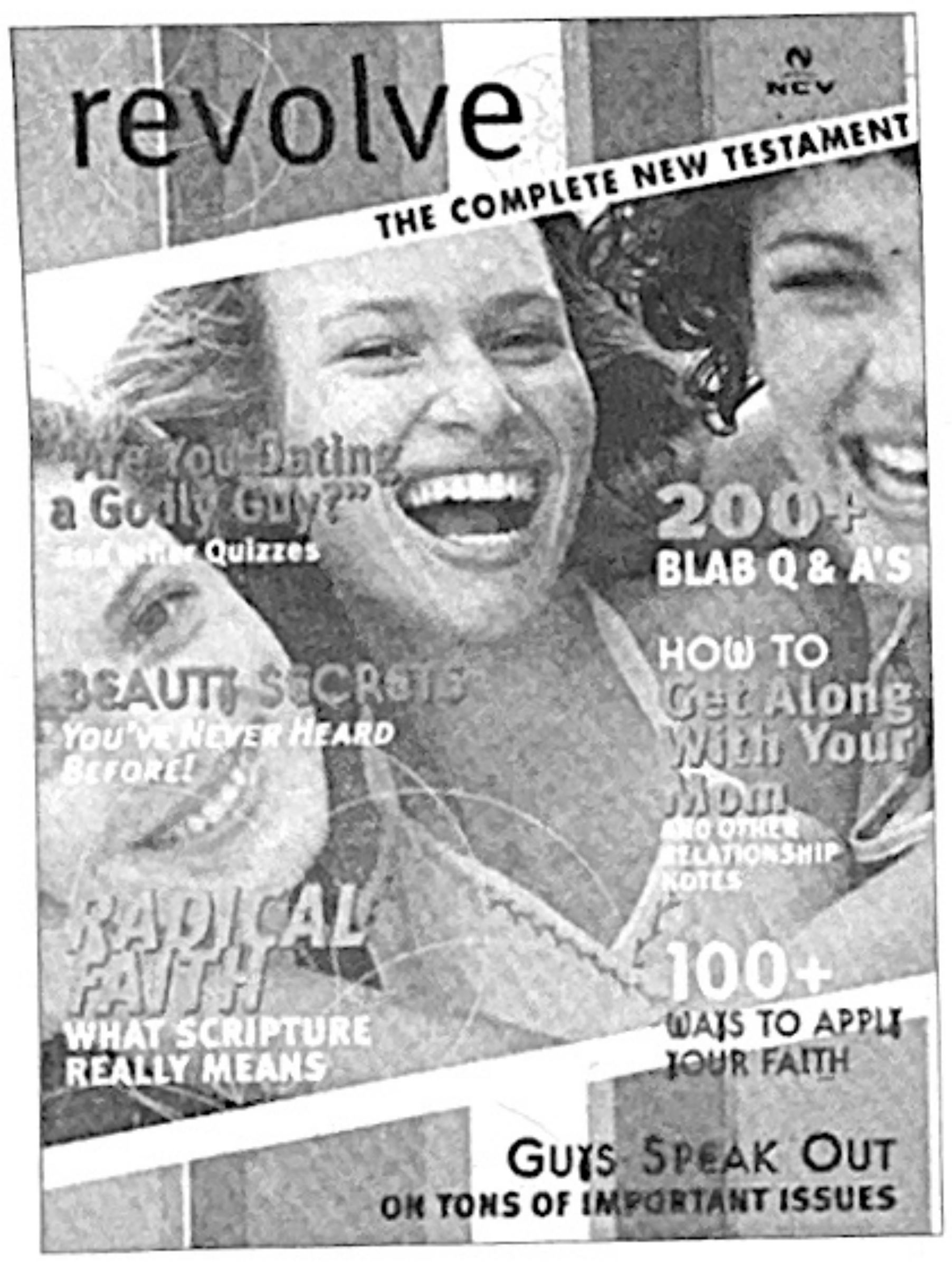
As a preface to this commentary, it is imperative to know that the intent of this piece is not to demean Christianity or the Bible. I feel that "Revolve" is simply a gross misrepresentation of the Bible — occasionally frightening, but more often humorous.

"Revolve," which could be called "the fashion Bible," is an interpretation of the Bible that targets teenage girls in an effort to make Christianity more appealing and accessible. To the untrained eye, "Revolve" looks like a fashion magazine, and a closer look makes it seem like a magazine that discusses the Bible. Both of these are only half-truths, as "Revolve" presents the New Testament in a visually appealing, YM-inspired format! Sounds good, huh? The problem exists within the content, which is frequently demeaning toward women, homosexuals and other religions. In most "blab" questions about sexual orientation, "Revolve" recommends praying homosexuals homosexual and trying to change their ways because they are not "natural."

Dating members of other religions is also forbidden, as it is tantamount to "playing with fire," because they "don't care about God."

Take the Top 10 list titled, "Top 10 random things to know about being a Revolve Girl." The No. 5 item: "Revolve girls know their bodies are temples of God." The fourth is the stunner: "Revolve girls are not argumentative." Coming in at No. 1 is the fantastically 1950s notion that "Revolve girls don't call guys."

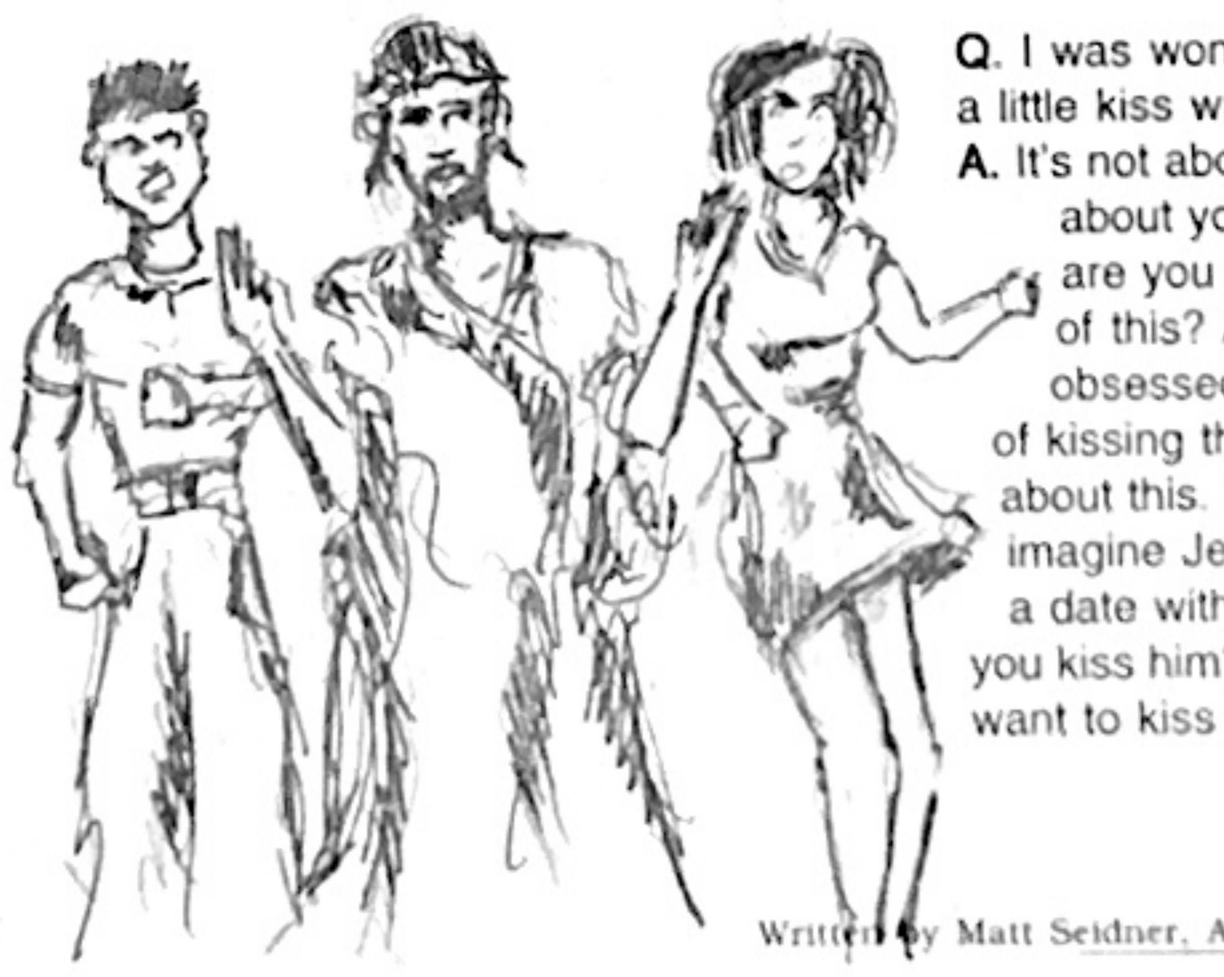
Below are but three of the gems found in the text.


revolve
NCV
THE COMPLETE NEW TESTAMENT
"Are You Dating a Godly Guy?"
and other Quizzes
BEAUTY SECRETS
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE!
RADICAL FAITH
WHAT SCRIPTURE REALLY MEANS
200+
BLAB Q & A'S
HOW TO
Get Along With Your Mom
AND OTHER RELATIONSHIP NOTES
100+
WAYS TO APPLY YOUR FAITH
GUYS SPEAK OUT
ON TONS OF IMPORTANT ISSUES

Q. Why do you think guys should call girls or whatever? I don't understand that; you mean you think men should pursue women?
A. Get a grip on the truth. Guys love a challenge. They love the chase. The game. When a girl starts asking a guy out, he likes it. It strokes his ego. But he will get bored! And when that happens . . . next! So guys need to step up and be the man, you need to be the woman.

NY Times interview with Laurie Whaley, Revolve's creator
Q. He does not love girls who call boys, at least according to Revolve! It's positively regressive for Revolve to suggest that God made men to be the leaders in romance.
A. There's no indication from Scripture that Mary Magdalene Christ.

Beauty Secret: Lipstick
What do people think when they hear your name? Gossip . . . Know it all . . . Kindhearted . . . Compassionate . . . Make sure your life reflects your beliefs. One way people know what you believe is by listening to you talk. Make sure you keep your speech pure. Imagine putting on "spiritual lipstick" every morning in preparation for the day's conversations.



Q. I was wondering, is even a little kiss wrong?
A. It's not about the rules; it's about your motive. What are you trying to get out of this? Are you obsessed with the idea of kissing this guy? Pray about this. Sit there and imagine Jesus with you on a date with this guy. Would you kiss him? Would you still want to kiss him?

Written by Matt Seidner, Artwork by Mike Koler

Through sports, music and stereotypes, Shaker fights with other schools in its own...

EAST SIDE STORY

Shaker faces off against rival schools

BY JASON PLAUTZ
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

When the University of Michigan first defeated Ohio State University 34-0 in 1897, a bitter feud broke out that rages to this day. From spoiling perfect seasons to hollering jeers, the rivalry is one of the most intense in college football and attracts thousands of fans. The annual football game has become a display of school pride so passionate that ESPN recently crowned it the no. 1 sports rivalry.

Hostile rivalries are not confined to OSU and Michigan or even college sports. Rivalries between Shaker and other area schools often burn with as much passion as many collegiate competitions. Sports games attract large jeering crowds, taunts lead to street fights between schools, and feelings of pride and vengeance pulse through the student body.

> “Rivalries are like a competition and SPORTS are competition ...To WIN THE GAME is to Win the rivalry.”
>
> -Corey Morrison
> Junior

According to psychology teacher Sally Hagstrand, the most common reasons for inter-school rivalries are geographic proximity and similarities in demographics and education. By these standards, Cleveland Heights High School is perfectly poised to be Shaker's biggest rival. The two schools are only 2.6 miles apart, a fact that Junior Corey Morrison said leads to bad blood between the two schools. “They're right down the street . . . it's like a battle for territory,” Morrison said.

Junior Jessie Shick, who transferred from Cleveland Heights in ninth grade, said that, compared to other schools, Shaker and Cleveland Heights have similar student bodies. Cleveland Heights High School has only 300 more students than Shaker Heights High School and a slightly larger African-American population. Shick said that this similarity would fuel a rivalry. “Even though they're similar, Shaker is better to be at,” Schick said.

Competition between the two schools dates back more than 50 years. Shaker guidance counselor David Peterjohn, who graduated from Shaker in 1983, said that Cleveland Heights was the big rival even when he was at school. “There's always been a rivalry. It probably goes back to at least the '40s or '50s,” he said.

Senior Ben Ouellette suggested that another reason for rivalries is hatred based on stereotypes rather than fact. “People don't know each other so they assume the worst,” Ouellette said. He also used this as an explanation for the Heights rivalry. “We don't really know them, and they think we're all stuck-up,” he said, adding that these prejudices led to intense competition.

Sophomore Angela Barnard transferred to Shaker from Hathaway Brown in eighth grade. She says that she has seen each school stereotype the other. “A lot of the girls [at HB] think that everyone in Shaker was on drugs and poor,” she said. However, she added that kids at Shaker “think that the HB girls are all rich snots.”

Despite these stereotypes, she said there isn't an intense competition between the schools. “I haven't really seen any rivalry,” Barnard said.

Sports and rivalries often go hand-in-hand. Morrison, who plays varsity football and wrestles, said that the two are indeed related. “Rivalries are like a competition and sports are competition. To win the game is to win the rivalry,” he said.

Morrison said that playing a rival school often changes his strategy on the field. “I usually go a lot harder against rivals,” he said.

Hagstrand agreed that playing a rival would cause an athlete to play harder. “Competition is motivating. You are getting focused and getting psyched,” she explained.

However, Hagstrand said that it was not the competition, but rather the atmosphere at sports events that fosters violent rivalries. “Games cause mob behavior and group stimulation that cause a diffusion of responsibility,” she said. She added that this mob mentality at games often leads to violence after the game.

“Everyone is pumped up,” Hagstrand said.

The most recent example of this post-game violence took place after the Dec. 10 women's basketball game between Shaker and Cleveland Heights. The incident, a spillover from a weekend party, resulted in emergency vehicles being called to the scene and damage to a Cleveland Heights student's car.

Sophomore Jessie Schiller said that intense rivalries usually lead to violence. “People want their school to win so much that they're willing to hurt each other,” she said.

Peterjohn said that even when he was in school, there was violence after rivalry sports games. “Unfortunately, sometimes it spilled over outside the athletic arena,” he said. He recalled an incident from his sophomore year in high school when, at the Cleveland Heights basketball game, a shouting match broke out in the stands. This verbal fight exploded into a violent clash that forced officials to delay the game for 20 minutes. Peterjohn believed that this incident led to Cleveland Heights games no longer being played on Friday nights.

Morrison believed that rivalries are more beneficial than detrimental to high school sports. “They bring a lot of attention to the games . . . they're a lot more exciting,” Morrison said, adding that sports would not be as fun without rivalries. However, he did say that rivalries only help if contained to the game. “They're only good on the field. Fights in the stands are bad,” he said.

Fighting at athletic events is not confined to basketball games alone. During last year's hockey game against University School, fans on both sides made threatening remarks, which they then made true on after the game. A large fight broke out, leaving then-junior Brian Mackley with a broken thumb. Additionally, then-junior Will Seitz stole a plastic goose, the adopted US mascot.

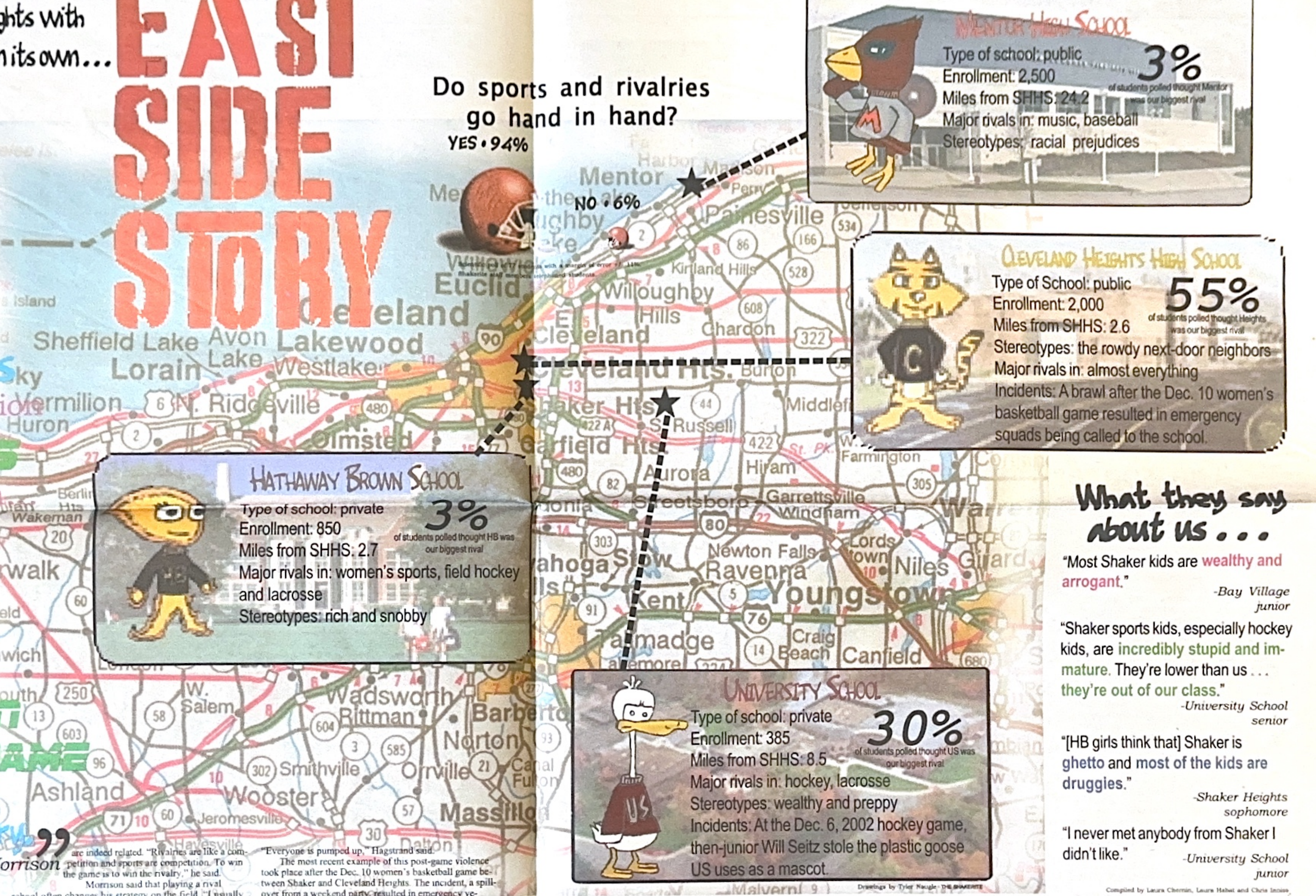
However, rivalries are not limited to athletic fields alone. Peterjohn said that he has seen some academic competition among area schools. “Academically, we're on par with a lot of the private schools, so there's a tendency to compare the schools,” he said. This comparison leads to rivalries rooted in similarities between schools.

English teacher Paul Springstubb said that the rivalries are especially apparent when college admissions are reported. “Shaker is always bragging,” Springstubb said, mentioning the school's website and newsletters as examples.

Shaker's strong music department also competes with other bands, especially Mentor. Junior Julia Sivertson, who plays clarinet in Wind Ensemble, said that she has seen a rivalry between Shaker and Mentor.

“They're the only other AA band for miles around,” she said, referring to the degree of difficulty of music played at both Shaker and Mentor. Sophomore Chris Connors said the competition manifested itself at the recent Severance Hall concert. “We went right before [Mentor], so we were able to compare performances,” he said. Connors added that students also compared marching band shows last year, fueling more rivalry between the schools.

Peterjohn said that healthy rivalries do not hurt schools, but have the potential to turn dire. “At every school, for better or worse [rivalries] are always there. If it gets violent, it's bad news for the school.”



Do sports and rivalries go hand in hand?

YES • 94%

NO • 6%

Scientific poll of 77 students with a margin of error +/- 11%. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

MENTOR HIGH SCHOOL

Type of school: public
Enrollment: 2,500
Miles from SHHS: 24.2
Major rivals in: music, baseball
Stereotypes: racial prejudices

3% of students polled thought Mentor was our biggest rival

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

Type of School: public
Enrollment: 2,000
Miles from SHHS: 2.6
Stereotypes: the rowdy next-door neighbors
Major rivals in: almost everything
Incidents: A brawl after the Dec. 10 women's basketball game resulted in emergency squads being called to the school.

55% of students polled thought Heights was our biggest rival

HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL

Type of school: private
Enrollment: 850
Miles from SHHS: 2.7
Major rivals in: women's sports, field hockey and lacrosse
Stereotypes: rich and snobby

3% of students polled thought HB was our biggest rival

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

Type of school: private
Enrollment: 385
Miles from SHHS: 8.5
Major rivals in: hockey, lacrosse
Stereotypes: wealthy and preppy
Incidents: At the Dec. 6, 2002 hockey game, then-junior Will Seitz stole the plastic goose US uses as a mascot.

30% of students polled thought US was our biggest rival

Drawings by Tyler Naugle · THE SHAKERITE

What they say about us . . .

“Most Shaker kids are wealthy and arrogant.”
-Bay Village junior

“Shaker sports kids, especially hockey kids, are incredibly stupid and immature. They're lower than us . . . they're out of our class.”
-University School senior

“[HB girls think that] Shaker is ghetto and most of the kids are druggies.”
-Shaker Heights sophomore

“I never met anybody from Shaker I didn't like.”
-University School junior

Compiled by Laura Chermin, Laura Habat and Chris Inniss

Do you feel rivalries exist between Shaker and other schools?

NO • 16%

YES • 84%

Scientific poll of 77 students with a margin of error +/- 11%. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

Guys are thinking pink

Seeing more pink shirts in the hallway would prompt one to think the high school houses an excessive number of female students. However, due to a new trend in men's fashion, this assumption may be inaccurate. "It's because of the shift toward the more European style. With that shift, it's kind of bringing the pink along," said Frank Scalish, a salesman at the Men's Rail Department at the Beachwood Nordstrom. Many male students now proudly sport the color once reserved for their female counterparts. The fashion is also seen as a return to the preppy style of the '80's. "It's not only for girls anymore. It's just like any other color," said senior Briggs Patterson, who frequently dons pink. -Abby Hexter

Mad Cow herds buffalo to town

By Will Wemer
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Oh give me a home, where the buffalo roam . . . then get herded into the slaughterhouse. With mad cow disease now a factor in America, some people have turned to buffalo, also known as bison, as an alternative.

Though bison meat is usually bought through mail-order catalogs or online, Google.com already lists 67 registered buffalo distributors in the United States and Canada.

According to Arrowhead Buffalo Meats of Sunbury, Ohio, buffalo meat has 76 percent less fat than cow meat, and the company proudly notes that buffalo "is what beef should taste like!" "Buffalo has a taste and texture very similar to beef, but *without the fat. The lack of fat marbling in the meat allows for a robust, full red meat taste. Many of* our customers are hooked on the rich, juicy, all-natural flavor of buffalo," Arrowhead's website states.

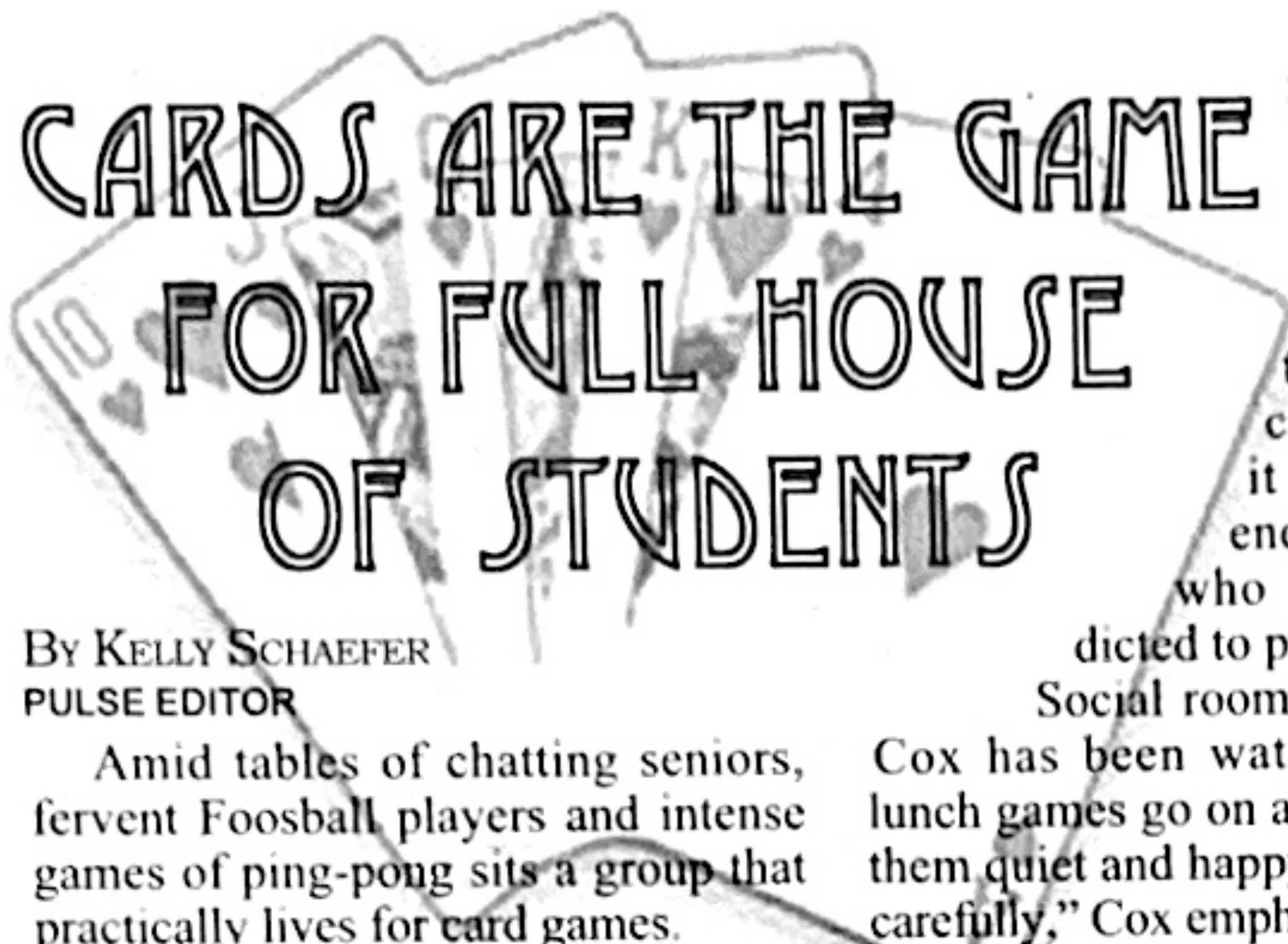
Along with buffalo steaks for grilling, the website also sells buffalo burgers, buffalo jerky, buffalo prime rib and ground buffalo meat, which can stand in for ground beef in most recipes.

Family and consumer science teacher Susan Landi notes that one of the major appeals of buffalo is its nutritional value, especially with today's diet trends.

"It's leaner than beef. It's appealing to the public due to the fact that everybody's trying the no-carbs and the Atkins diet," said Landi, who teaches Foods at Shaker Middle School.

Sophomore Ben Hershorn knows about buffalo first hand.

"I've had buffalo before and it's real good. Now you can have buffalo wings with real buffalo," he joked.



CARDS ARE THE GAME FOR FULL HOUSE OF STUDENTS

By Kelly Schaefer
PULSE EDITOR

Amid tables of chatting seniors, fervent Foosball players and intense games of ping-pong sits a group that practically lives for card games.

Senior Dwayne Fair and his friends spend their lunch periods and every free period gathered around a table in pursuit of poker games such as Texas Hold 'Em, Omaha and Seven-card Stud, card games such as Tunk, and pure camaraderie.

Fair describes the games as a mix of "rage, talking, cursing, hormones and boy talk."

The seniors are a taking part in a national trend in which poker and other card games are increasing popular and even considered sport. The cable sports network ESPN carries poker games, which Fair and his friends watch whenever they can.

Senior Devon Cherry considers himself a poker enthusiast who seriously began playing six months ago.

"The World Series of Poker is the third most watched sport on TV, and I think that's really exciting. I watched it for hours on end," said Cherry, who said he is addicted to poker.

Social room supervisor Sara Cox has been watching the daily lunch games go on all year. "It keeps them quiet and happy. I do monitor it carefully," Cox emphasized.

Students such as Cherry have incorporated poker into their lives outside of school as well.

"I have future plans to redo half of my room to look like an actual casino in Las Vegas," said Cherry, who plans to add a poker/blackjack table, lots of lights and, if he comes into some extra cash, a slot machine. He also plays online.

"When I turn 21, the first thing I want to do is go to Vegas and play," Cherry said.

Fair and his friends attest that they have created a new language for use while playing. "We make up words - we've got our own dictionary," Fair said.

"Boat 'em up" translates to "full house" and "yesheem" to "yes." Their creations come from whatever sounds good in the heat of playing.

According to Cox, the senior lounge is the only place in the high school where students are permitted to play cards. Although seniors such as Fair play during their free periods every day, Cox has not noticed students skipping classes to play.

"We do try to check and make sure that they don't have a class," Cox said.

Cherry believes participants should have the right to play as they see fit, regardless of the risk involved. He said he does not bet on games played at school.

"I think if people want to lose their money, it's their problem," Cherry said.

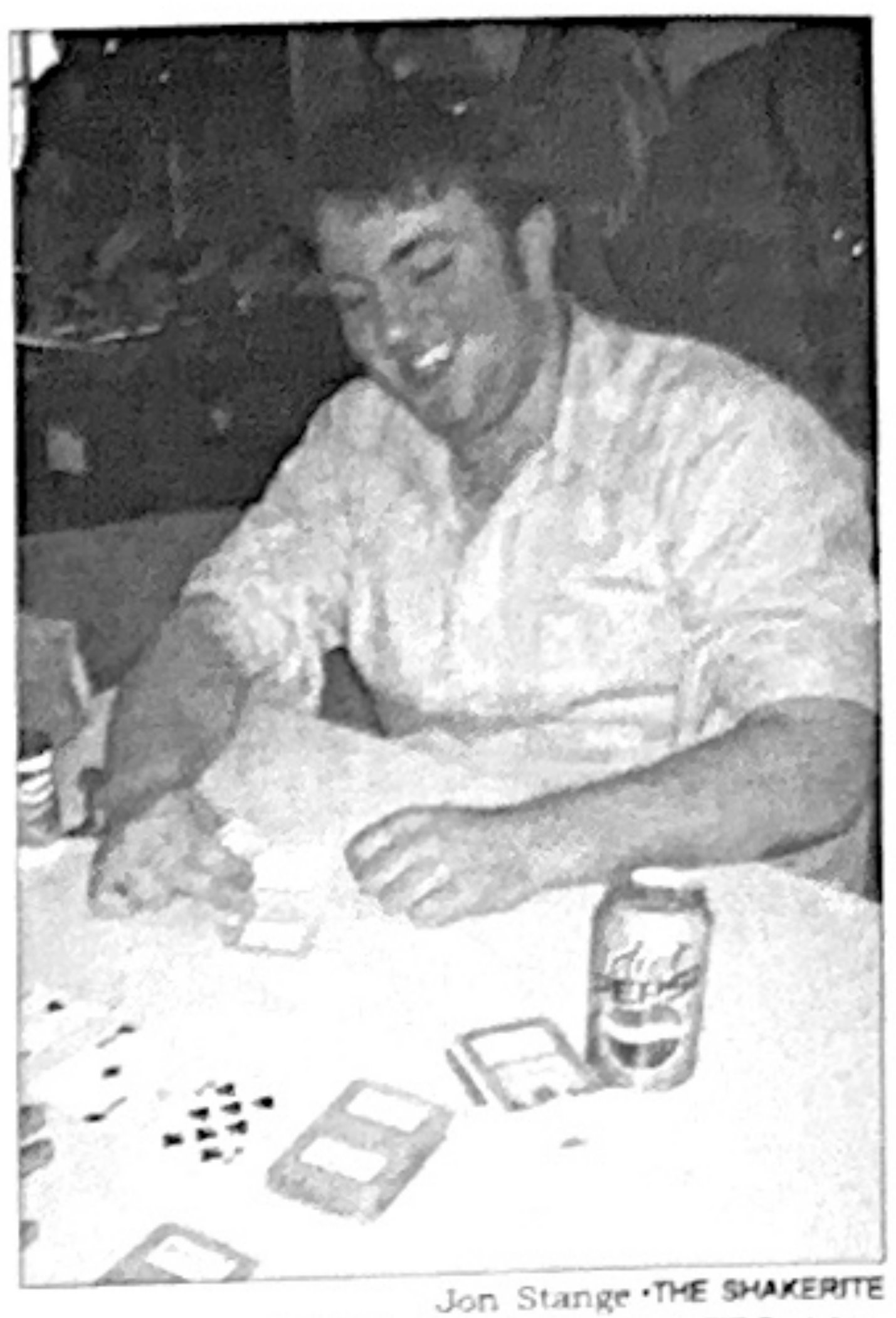
Some players keep track of points during school games, but deny that these points ever transfer into money once out of school.

Not only seniors have picked up on the playing card frenzy. Junior Matt Koletsky has been playing Texas Hold 'Em with a group of friends since winter break.

"It's a different type of poker than I played before, and it's fun because there are different types of strategies. But you don't really have to be that smart; it's a lot of luck," Koletsky said. Texas Hold 'Em involves "community cards" that the players use to make the common poker card combinations. Koletsky and his friends play at one another's homes.

"The basics of poker are still there: you have to bluff and keep a straight face," Koletsky said.

Cox finds no problem with the card games, although she has higher hopes for their games of choice. "I would love it if they played bridge or something cerebral, but I don't think that's what they're playing," Cox said.



Jon Stange • THE SHAKERITE

DEVON CHERRY CONTEMPLATES his hand of cards during a lunchtime Texas Hold 'Em game in the senior lounge.

The sooner the better

•Ambitious students accelerate class schedules to *graduate early*

By Anna Hu
COPY EDITOR

Every Shaker student is eager to glide gracefully across a stage in a red or white robe to receive a ribbon-bound diploma after four grueling years of study.

So eager, in fact, that a few have opted to cut a semester or two out of the game plan. According to the guidance department, about five students-- more than in past years- plan to graduate before the full eight semesters of high school this year.

"Lots of my friends graduated last year, so I had no reason to stay," said senior Elizabeth Haas, who completed her graduation requirements during first semester and is finished taking classes at the high school. Come the end of February, Haas will leave Shaker to become an intern in Montana with Project Vote Smart, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that aims to help citizens make educated voting decisions. She found out about the internship with the help of government teacher Kimberly Owens.

Quite a bit of convincing was necessary to obtain her parents' approval. Even though she had completed all graduation requirements at the end of last year, Haas said her parents wanted her in school until she found something more worthwhile to do.

"My parents thought, 'Oh, if you do something different from everyone else, colleges won't like you and you'll fail at life,'" Haas said.

CLASS OF 2004

Mike Koler • THE SHAKERITE

Guidance department chairwoman Eileen Blattner shared the concern that students who graduate early are missing out.

"I would probably discourage it because there are so many opportunities — academic and extracurricular — at Shaker. The best way to do it is in the full four years," Blattner said. "However, if there is student who has a very good reason, we will help them do it."

Haas said Blattner helped her organize her schedule so she met all graduation requirements.

"As soon as she figured out that I was actually serious, she was very helpful," Haas said. She said that Blattner has kept in touch.

Arielle Bohanon, who plans to graduate in June after three years of high school, had a similar experience with the guidance department. Counselors were hesitant at first but then acquiesced.

"[My counselor] was a little concerned about the maturity issue, but he thought I'd be OK," Bohanon said. Unlike Haas, she wants to graduate early for reasons of convenience.

"My mom is talking about moving out of Shaker, so I decided to graduate early instead of starting a new high school," Bohanon said. She added an English class to her now eight-course schedule in order to complete all requirements by the end of this year.

Socially, the change has not been a major problem. "It's a little weird, but it doesn't bother me," Bohanon said. She takes government with seniors, but she said that they "understand the situation," and no one has given her any trouble about her decision.

Michael Kowen, previously of the class of 2005, didn't have to adjust to taking classes with seniors after deciding to graduate this year. Kowen has been enrolled in math and science courses with the class of 2004 for several years now, so graduating early just "seemed to make sense." Kowen said his mother was influential in the decision to finish in three years and that counselors were "OK with it but not particularly thrilled."

Because he was already a year ahead in math and science, he only needed to add a government course to his schedule and take an English class at Case Western Reserve University to fulfill graduation requirements.

"It seemed like an appropriate thing to do because of the frame of mind I was in," Kowen said.

Haas seemed to agree that attitude plays an important role in the decision to graduate early.

"A lot of people said, 'What? You'll miss prom! You'll miss senior cut day!' But I mean, this is like senior cut semester!" Haas laughed. Most juniors who are graduating early receive the perks of senior year, such as prom and senior project, after being promoted to senior status during the year.

Haas continued on a more serious note, explaining that this path gives her a unique opportunity before starting college in the fall. "It's like I'm taking a year off but not having to start late," she said.

Haas added that the internship might actually help her in the college process. "Most colleges like that it's something that sticks out. They like that I'm not just blazing my way through senior year," she said.

Blattner was less certain. "Honestly, I don't know what effects it's going to have on the college application process," she said.

But perhaps most importantly, the students who are graduating early feel that they are getting the best of both a Shaker education and outside opportunities.

"There are just some things that are more worthwhile than sitting in school, and I think what I'm doing is one of them," Haas said.

Heard in the Halls

Overheard and out of context

"We had a haiku war online yesterday!"
2/3

"Is John Lennon related to Vladimir Lenin?"
2/3

"Nuclei have a crunchy candy coating!"
2/17

"Who bites people anymore? That's so, like, 1994!"
2/5

"I pimped this orange."
2/6

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Don’t forget pencils, paper and . . . your Nalgene?

By Emily Ozan
PULSE EDITOR

Lately, Shaker students have seemed more prepared for a camping trip than they have for English class.

With Nalgene water bottles in their hands and carabineers on their key chains, students are sporting a trend of outdoor apparel.

“Nalgenes have become not only for hiking but a more popular thing to drink out of. It’s more fashionable than it used to be,” said junior Student Council member Becky Siegel. One of the reasons Siegel was enthusiastic about the sale was her own hiking experience.

Although the trend is current, the actual bottles are nothing new.

Nalgene bottles originated as laboratory equipment created by chemist Emanuel Goldberg for the Nalge Company in 1949. However, after scientists and Boy Scouts began using them for hiking purposes, the company took on a new dimension.

The water bottles are made of Lexan, polyethylene and polyproplylene which offer the product “high impact resistance,” flexibility and sturdiness according to the Nalgene Outdoor website.

Photo Illustration by Jon Stange • THE SHAKERITE

Siegel, along with the rest of the ’05 council members, sold Nalgenes to the school for a class fundraiser. The sale was lucrative; only 10 of the original 200 water bottles pre-ordered went unclaimed, according to Siegel.

“I mean, if you are going to carry around a water bottle, then you might as well carry a Nalgene,” Siegel said.

Senior Jesse Cowan, who bought a Nalgene last year, often carries his water bottle around at school.

“It’s trendy and lots of people have them,” Cowan said.

Nalgenes are a popular product not only at the high school but also at area sporting goods stores.

“We probably sell 10 to 20 Nalgene bottles a day, and a lot of that number is to non-hikers. Seventy-five to 80 percent is for non-hiker people,” said Jamie Drysdale, a sales associate who works in the camping department of Galyan’s at Legacy Village.

Drysdale acknowledged the rising teenage trend to own a Nalgene water bottle.

“They’re almost becoming collectibles now, like Teletubbies or like stuffed animal collections,” Drysdale said.

The Nalgene craze does not stop with students. Science teacher David Klapholz sports a Nalgene water bottle on his desk almost every day.

“I use it to carry water so that I don’t get thirsty and my voice doesn’t sound like a frog,” Klapholz said.

Klapholz thinks carrying around a water bottle is good idea for students.

“Students put up with a multitude of discomforts during school. The water bottle allows them to ameliorate one of them — thirst,” Klapholz said.

But why use a Nalgene instead of any other type of water bottle?

In terms of a water bottle, Nalgenes are much more expensive then other kinds, such as Arctic Zone water bottles sold at Target for $2.99.

However, Drysdale affirms that Nalgenes offer several advantages to their owners.

“They’re $8 [at Galyan’s] and they come in a number of different colors. They’re easy. They’re almost indestructible. I guess it’s cool to carry them around school,” Drysdale said.

Senior Laura Falender, who is a frequent hiker and works in the mountains in New Hampshire during the summer, likes Nalgene bottles because they’re tough.

“They’re definitely practical as water bottles. You definitely need them out in the mountains because they’re so durable,” Falender said.

Nonetheless, the increasing number of non-campers who sport Nalgene bottles and other hiking gear, such as North Face fleece jackets, bemuses her.

“In some ways it is sort of ridiculous that people have these things. On the other hand, Nalgene bottles and North Faces are so well designed,” said Falender, although she can’t understand why students carry carabineers.

“You really only need a carabineer when you’re rock climbing. Water bottles are water bottles no matter where you are, but a carabineer serves no function when you are not rock climbing,” she said.

Rock climbers use carabineers to attach lines to their harnesses.

However, Drysdale said the product, a small, lightweight, metal hook that opens and closes easily, is practical for his non-hiking customers.

“It actually is kind of nice because you can clip your keys on there. It’s just a small item that costs a couple bucks, so it’s fun to have,” Drysdale said.

Whether students are hiking the mountains and wilderness or trekking the crowded halls, outdoor gear seems essential these days.

“You don’t have to be a hiker to carry this stuff around. If [non-hikers] want to use a Nalgene or carabineer it’s up to them,” Drysdale said.

Critics give two thumbs down to using movies as teaching tools

By Aviva Ariel
FOCUS EDITOR

Your description of Abigail, Tituba and the girls casting spells in the forest in “The Crucible” was so vivid, you’d think your English teacher would have been more impressed.

But your essay came back redder than the chicken’s blood Wynona Rider smeared on her face during that scene.

What gives?

Like many other students, you fell prey to the dramatic plot embellishments Hollywood often creates to make films appealing to audiences. It’s a harsh moment when you realize the scene you referred to never happened in the play’s text and that your mom’s going to see that big fat F.

In Arthur Miller’s play, girls in the Puritan town of Salem run into trouble after they are discovered dancing in the woods. The play itself does not include anything beyond a reference to the event. The 1996 film version of the “The Crucible,” however, begins with a dramatic portrayal of the girls dancing around a boiling cauldron and speaking wishes that could pass for spells.

Sophomore David Williams agrees that video versions of books don’t help students learn material because they often differ from the original texts. “Movies change the way the book was written to make it more entertaining,” said Williams, who does read the books in addition to watching the in-class movies. “When the test comes around, the movie is different than the book.”

English teacher Sally Schwartz, who has been teaching at Shaker for 19 years, doesn’t normally show movie adaptations because viewing films takes too much time. “It’s hard because we can never watch all the way through the movie.”

Schwartz also said students tune out.

“It is so annoying when students don’t pay attention,” said Schwartz, who feels that students miss out on an opportunity to understand the book’s themes if they don’t pay attention. “They do homework. It’s like they think they can check out.”

Although Williams has dozed off during movies based on books in his second period English class, he doesn’t feel like he’s missed out on opportunities to further understand the text. “It’s not worth it,” said Williams, who thinks that showing a movie about a book is mostly ineffective in classrooms. “People don’t watch because people think it’s free time.”

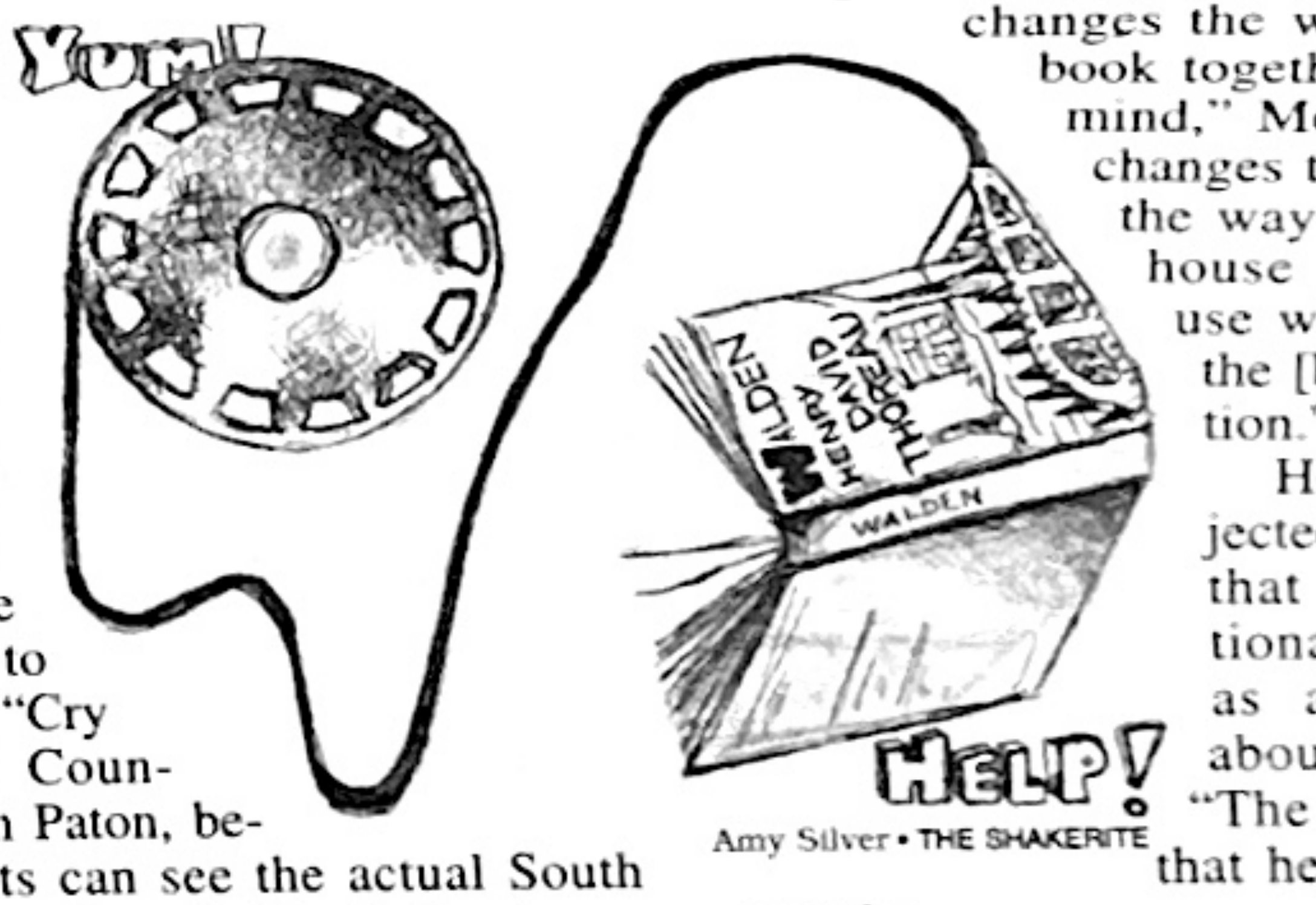
Schwartz feels that watching movies in addition to a class discussion might help students. “It can be valuable to stop the movie and discuss scenes,” she said. “It is important to teach students to be critical movie watchers.”

Schwartz enjoys showing “The Crucible” in class because it strongly supports the written version of the play. The same applies to the movie of “Cry the Beloved Country,” by Allen Paton, because students can see the actual South African scenery described in the book.

English teacher Ruth Blair’s ninth period class doesn’t usually watch film adaptations, according to junior Anne Morrison. “If we do watch them, it’s after we read, as a reinforcement,” Morrison said.

Even though movies are used to enhance the understanding of literature, Morrison thinks that viewing a film clip can never be a replacement for the original text. She noted many drawbacks to just seeing a movie version of a book. “It changes the way you put the book together in your own mind,” Morrison said. “It changes the characters or the way you envision a house because they use what exists to fit the [book’s] description.”

However, she objected less to movies that include additional insight, such as a documentary about the author of “The Great Gatsby” that her class watched recently.



Amy Silver • THE SHAKERITE

Morrison recommends reading the book before tests to make sure the information is accurate and to gain a complete understanding of the literature. “I’ve read books and seen the movies, and they’re not as detailed and don’t show the writing style of the author,” she said.

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Don't be concerned if you can't remember this year's Improv Show; there wasn't one. The show was canceled three different times, first due to the automobile accident that claimed the life of junior Jenny Goldman, then the snow day, and finally the school-wide power outage. Senior Matt Knittel regrets not having been able to perform in the show. "It was kind of disappointing because it was my last show and everything was pulling together and we were getting better towards the end," he said.

<<<The show that wasn't

five MINUTE critic

Mystic River

Starring: Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon
Director: Clint Eastwood

Power, guilt and compassion are the undercurrents that run through "Mystic River," a movie about a middle class Boston community shocked by the murder of a young girl. The girl's father, Jimmy Markum (Sean Penn), searches for the killer with help from his gang of Irish-American thugs, leading to even more tragedy. Sean Penn and Tim Robbins (Dave Boyle, Markum's childhood friend in the film) won Golden Globes for best actor and best supporting actor, respectively. Director Clint Eastwood wonderfully captures the heavy emotion that strains the relationships and the very grain of this Boston borough. His depiction of the triumph of the powerful and the fall of the innocent creates a unique, touching film.

★★★½

out of four

Kyan Safavi

College Dropout

Kayne West

Turns out producer Kayne West was saving the best beats for himself. The entire album, with a lengthy 21 songs, is hot. The highlight is "We Don 't Care," which opens up the album and sets the tone. All the songs differ in style, and his flow is dynamic and powerful. The lighter "New Workout Plan" is purely a comedy song, while "All Falls Down" carries a powerful message. Guest appearances are limited, though the duet with Ludacris in "Breathe in, Breathe Out" is one of the highlights of the disc.

★★★★

out of four

David Morgenstern

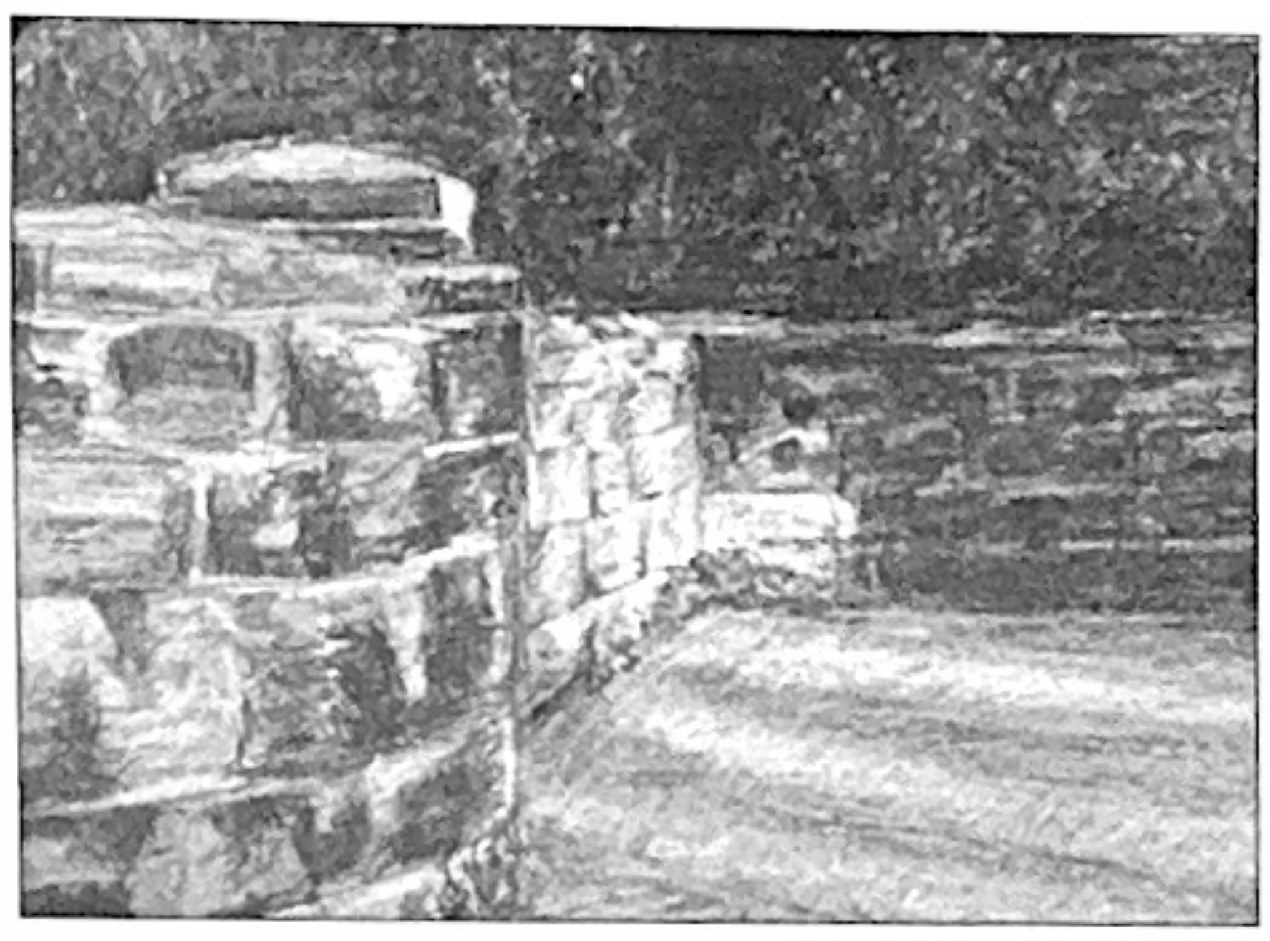
Artists capture Scholastic glory

By Alex Buder Shapiro
ARTS EDITOR

Shaker students have proven their mastery with paintbrushes, pastels, pencils, clay, beads and welding torches.

Shattering the competition, Shaker collected 37 awards in the 2004 Cuyahoga Regional Scholastic Art Awards program, more than any of the other 100 participating high schools. In previous years, Shaker took third or fourth place overall, with the Cleveland School of the Arts leading the competition.

Winning works were displayed at a Cuyahoga Community College art show, and certain artists advanced to the national level.



Courtesy of Kathleen Rains

SENIOR KATHLEEN RAINS received an honorable mention.

"We were strong in all fields: graphics, painting, drawing, design, jewelry. I'm most proud of the fact that the winners were across our curriculum . . . representing all forms. It means we grew together, across the board," art teacher Dan Whitely said.

With 28 students recognized, Shaker won six art portfolio awards, six gold keys, 10 silver keys and 15 honorable mentions.

In addition to these standard honors, senior Michael Koler won an American Greetings Cash Award, and junior Anne Morrison won an American Vision Award.

The American Greetings Cash Award is typically awarded to the four students who earn the highest point totals in the Scholastic Art show, but due to a scoring miscalculation, it was given to five this year.

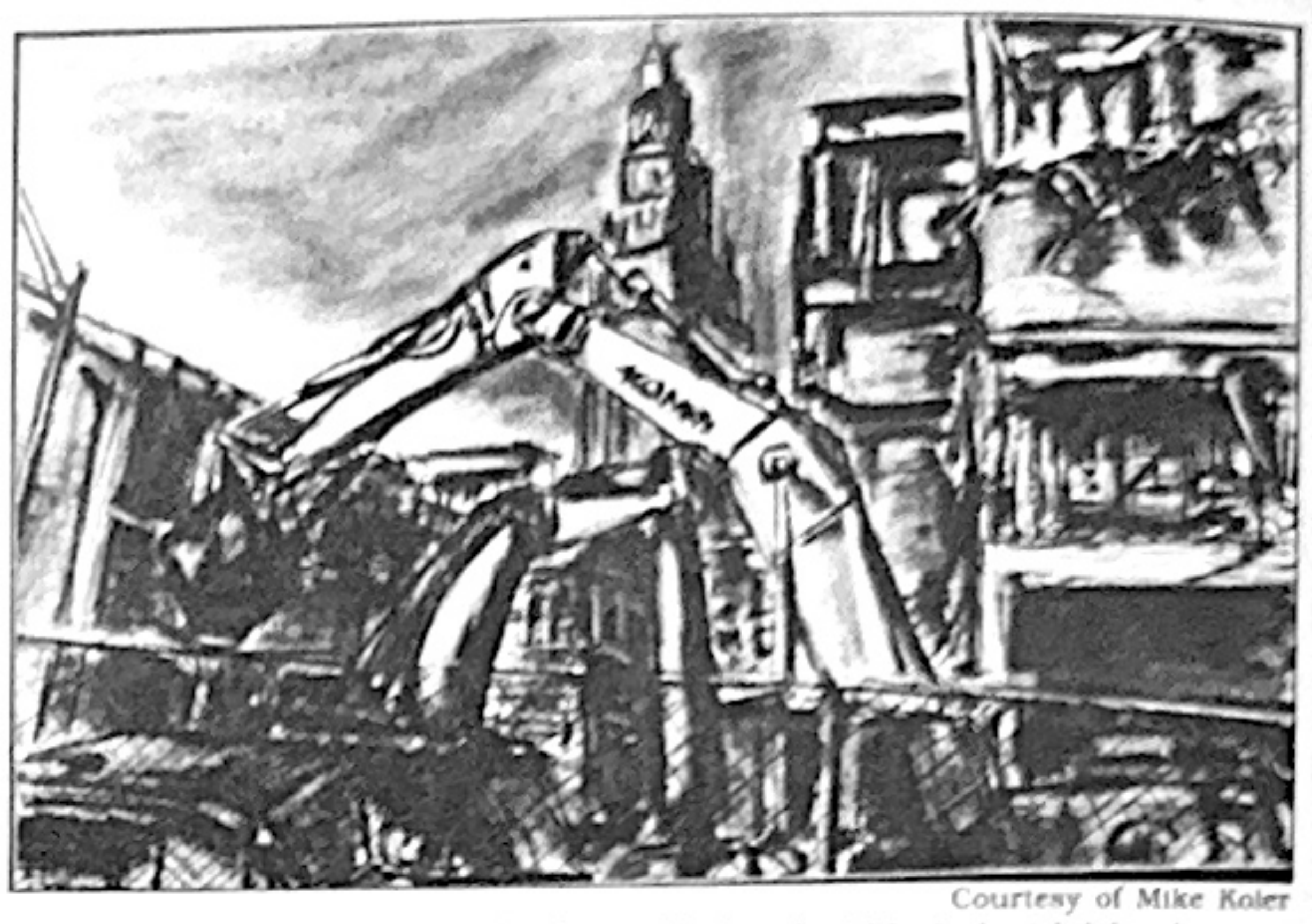
For his success, which included an art portfolio award, a gold key, a silver key and an honorable mention, Koler received $400.

Koler described his submissions, including a Cleveland industrial landscape in charcoal and an oil pastel of a bike, as "a bit on the dark side." He is worried that this might hurt him in later rounds.

"Finally, art pays off," Koler said. "But I know that the process never ends, and I must continue to develop and grow as an artist."

Koler could see himself pursuing an art career, possibly beginning in the design field, but he knows that the profession is "so subjective."

The American Vision Award, presented to Morrison for a chain-metal jewelry piece that also earned a gold key, sends the five students' work to be exhibited in a special New York Scholastics-affiliated show.



Courtesy of Mike Koler

SENIOR MIKE KOLER received a gold key for this industrial landscape.

In addition, the works can be purchased for $100 and displayed in an actual art gallery.

Morrison's piece, entered in the jewelry design category, was made as a part of a summer Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA) jewelry class.

"The whole thing turned out to be a happy accident. I went on a trip this summer, and when I got back, the jewelry class was the only one left. And it turned out, I really liked it," Morrison said.

She also won a silver key for an oil pastel.

Morrison is currently taking a Graphics II course and a jewelry class at the high school, plus a life portrait drawing class at CIA.

She is interested in possibly translating her artwork into a career, although she hasn't decided what direction it would take.

"I'm really honored. This award makes me think I can really do something with my art, not just as a hobby," Morrison said.

Junior Maren Guse found similar validation in her silver key for her photograph of an old Wisconsin schoolhouse.

"It was really nice to get an award, especially since it wasn't expected," Guse said.

She is currently taking Photography at the high school but spent a number of additional hours on multiple Saturdays preparing the piece for the competition.

"I'd like to have [photography] as a career, but it will probably be more of a hobby," Guse said.

The competition now takes a national turn, with approximately 30,000 art portfolio and gold key winners. Approximately 1,100 will be recognized.

Last year, Jessica Herzfeld ('03) earned the American Visions Award and a silver award for two of her paintings at the national level.

Meeting 'Queer Eye' design guy worth trip across tundra

Take it from a gay man who knows: "If I ever stole my mother's furniture, I would never, ever, ever, ever have a chance at getting laid. It's not a good look."

Thom Filicia, a member of the Fab Five on Bravo's hit series "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," (Tuesdays at 10 p.m.) has come to be known for turning residences he affectionately dubs "crack dens" into convenient and stylish living spaces for clueless straight men.

HILRY HAZELWOOD
PHOTO EDITOR

Filicia appeared recently at the National Association of Remodeling Industry Improvement Show at the I-X Center on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Being a fan of the show and the proud owner of the Queer Eye calendar, I decided to make the 40-minute trek out to the show to listen to Filicia give home decorating advice. Never mind that I had no idea where the I-X Center was (not my fault - the cities of Cleveland and Brook Park don't know, either), nor do I have a home in need of decoration.

Surprisingly, I spent more time figuring out what to wear for the occasion than I normally do in an entire week.

"You do realize he's gay, don't you?" my mother asked as she shook her head at my preening. "He's not going to care what you wear!"

Eventually, I decided that I was presentable and began the drive to the I-X Center with two of my friends. We reached the I-X Center one hour later, surrounded by miles of traffic and hundreds of people sporting mullets and heading to the motorcycle show also at the center.

Parking was so backed up that we ended up parking what seemed like a mile away from the actual event. By the time we hiked across the frozen tundra that was the endless I-X Center parking lot, we walked in just in time to see Filicia begin his presentation.

Aided by a projector and slides of various rooms he designed, he regaled the audience with tales of his designing experience on and off the show. After his presentation, Filicia answered audience questions ranging from buying curtains to best-fit windows, and which straight guys featured on the show had broken up with their girlfriends.

Filicia emphasized using a strong color palette to decorate a home. He recommended picking out your five favorite items of clothing, and using the colors from those clothes to choose paint hues.

After his presentation, Filicia signed autographs and took pictures with fans. Needless to say, my newest prized possession is his autographed picture. Filicia was just as charming as I thought he would be — he enthusiastically asked how my Saturday was going and made polite small-talk while he signed his autograph.

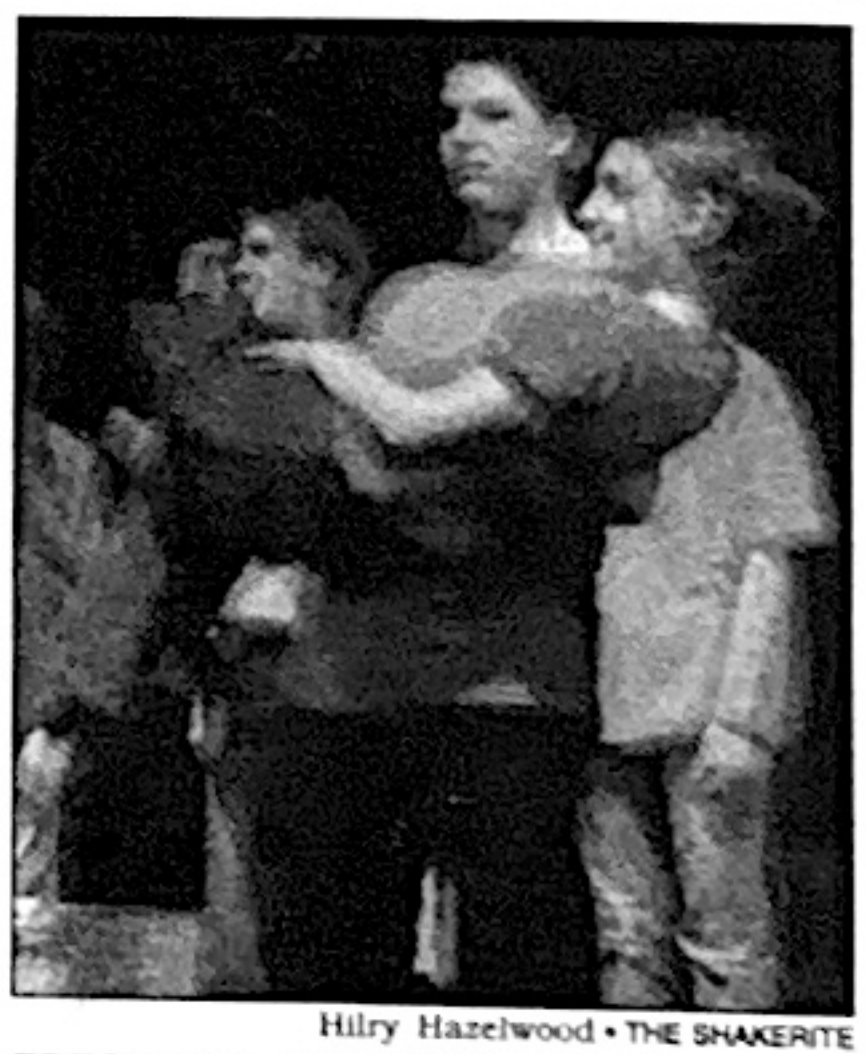
I, of course, was star struck and managed not to scream "I LOVE YOOOU AND I LOVE THE SHOW!" I thanked him and walked away to swoon, in private.

'At This Stage,' frosh take charge

By Chris Inniss
STAFF REPORTER

A disco ball rotates in the back of the darkly lit theater. Colorful boxes and a lone guitar decorate the stage. Two freshmen, dressed in brightly-colored shirts and khaki pants, speak rapidly. Suddenly, the conversation halts. "Umm . . . could you tell me what the line is?" one student asks the stage managers sitting in the audience.

"No, no! If you forget a line, stay in character and say 'line please!' Let's take that again," director Christine McBurney shouts and the freshmen return to their positions.



Hilry Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE

FRESHMEN ALEX ANTHES, Eileen Lalley and Annie Sivertson rehearse.

This is the final rehearsal of "At This Stage," this year's Ninth Grade Theater Experience (NGTE) performed Feb. 19 and 20.

"The ninth grade experience show gives ninth graders the opportunity to refine their performing," said James Thornton, head of the theater department.

"At This Stage" is written by its freshmen performers, aided by professional playwright Sara Norton. The entire process, from auditions to opening night, takes three weeks and is done far differently from other shows.

Auditions, which included opportunities to write and participate in improvisational exercises, were held despite the fact that everyone who came was guaranteed a role. Then, the ninth graders combined their responses to various prompts, such as "Rewrite the ending of a fairy tale," to form a working script. Finally, the performers sat in a circle and were instructed to read any part of the script that they found interesting to allot lines.

NGTE first began in 1986 as a main-stage-style production, with freshmen performing an already written drama. In the 1990s, the show became more of a review, including scenes from famous dramas and musicals.

The current incarnation has received rave reviews, including earning Shaker the designation of a Center of Excellence in Education after performing for the National Conference for English and Theater teachers.

NGTE allows the freshmen to bond and take a break from the pressures of high school.

Freshmen Annie Sivertson said that the show gave her a chance to "meet new people and experience a new way of theater . . . I had never done a show where I just wrote the parts down and put them together."

Crowds flock to find Fisher

FROM FISHER PAGE 1

"I flip through the pages of listings . . . running my eyes up and down, imagining that one of the names might send me a special feeling . . . I decide that I'll allow myself only one call."

That one call connected Fisher to his aunt, one of many relatives he later flew to Cleveland to meet in 1992. He currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, LaNette, and daughter, Indigo, to whom the 1999 autobiography is dedicated. According to Fisher, LaNette regularly reads to him.

"I never read a book until I was 24," he said. "The first book I read was 'The Talented Mr. Ripley.' "

Fisher was diagnosed with dyslexia in his 20s, and the abuse he received from his foster mother halted his desire to learn or be in the spotlight. Therefore, Fisher's comments were rather brief, and he soon deferred to the audio book's narrator, Tony Penny. Three years ago, Penny was asked to narrate the tale and has since maintained a close relationship with Fisher.

"There seemed to be very little, if any, bitterness in his writing . . . the memoir was cathartic," Penny said at Shaker Main. He read some humorous and dramatic passages that stirred him most when he first read Fisher's autobiography. Penny also described the exciting moment when he and his wife realized he would be attending the Hollywood premiere of "Finding Fish," the memoir as a film.

"We jumped up and down like two 12-year-olds," Penny smiled.

Eventually, Fisher joined Penny at the podium and the two fielded questions, most of which couldn't be heard. Microphones weren't available to the audience, and the usual sounds of the library continued - phones ringing and people chatting - almost drowned out the speakers' words.

Junior David Ludgin said the ceremony did not allot enough speaking time for Fisher.

"He talks in such a general way [about] all the pain and suffering he went through and he never really held a grudge," the chanticleer said. "I wished there was more time for him to talk."

Fellow chanticleer Andrea Martin, a junior, felt that Fisher's book spoke loudly enough, deeming it a must-read.

"It really opened people's eyes," Martin said. "[From his presentation], you could tell he was intelligent and had gained intelligence through his experiences."

Junior Kellie Fritz, who attended the Main Library program, had read "Finding Fish" as the summer requirement for 11 CP English. Her favorite scene featured Ms. Pickett, Fisher's sadistic foster mother, falling down the stairs on her way to beat him for staying out late.

Brian Gamm • THE SHAKERITE

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN Robert Schneider directs the Chanticleers. The group introduced Antwone Fisher's appearance at the Shaker Main Library Feb. 4.

"It shows that you reap what you sow," Fritz said.

Fisher's memoir charmed English teacher Ruth Blair because of its multiple Motown references. She, too, appreciated its "rags-to-riches" sentiments.

"Finding that personal drive to succeed . . . he was able to find his identity," Blair said. "He found his voice and his talent. It's an inspiration."

One question Fisher responded to regarded his support of adoptive parents over foster parents. He feels the state foster care system's lack of communication and the transient nature of "bad foster parents" makes adopting kids far more appealing. However, he avoided questions inquiring about his own religious beliefs, not wanting to "muddy the message" of his memoir, which focused on persistence.

"Never give up," Fisher vocalized unabashedly.

A similar message was delivered at another Cleveland-area ceremony held in Fisher's honor at the Cleveland Public Library Feb. 2.

English teacher Chuck Kelly attended and hoped for this theme, especially from a true story that students might closely relate to. Kelly agreed with Fisher's uplifitng message.

"It's not impossible to rise above . . . your circumstances," Kelly said. "It's a very poignant story."

Kelly lauded the event itself, which included the Cleveland Boys Choir's music.

Like Ludgin, Kelly had hoped Fisher would speak longer and elaborate on how he has continued to benefit from his difficulties. Regardless, he said the event was the highlight of the year for him.

"He's a very down-to-earth man. He's still the character in the book," Kelly said.

Fisher swimming in local praise

A panel of teachers selected Antwone Fisher's autobiography for the third year of the North Coast Neighbors Share a Book Foundation, which is a branch of the Cleveland Area Metropolitan Library System. The yearlong project includes poetry contests, movie viewings, book discussions on topics such as the adoption/foster care system, and art exhibits for the Northern Ohio communities. Mike Snyder, executive director of CAMLS, coordinated all of Fisher's Ohio's appearances and the grant-writing efforts that paid for the functions. The entire project will cost CAMLS $33,632 - all of which pays for advertising, snacks at the functions and publicity in the form of bookmarks and pamphlets.

"I read the book and really enjoyed it," Snyder said. "I'm an English major, so I thought it was very well-written."

Betty Elee

Do you have an opinion?

Get it published in the Shakerite! Write a letter to the editor and submit to Room 231, or send it to editor@shakerite.com.

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Sankofa's evolution

By December Kinney
ARTS EDITOR

Black history month at Shaker culminated in the production full of music, dance and speech that is Sankofa.

The show took place Feb. 27 in the large auditorium. The theme of cultural evolution was depicted in 10 different scenes, each of which focused on progress made in black culture during a specific era.

Preparation for Sankofa is extensive. After auditioning, selected students practiced Monday through Friday from the beginning of January until the day of the show.

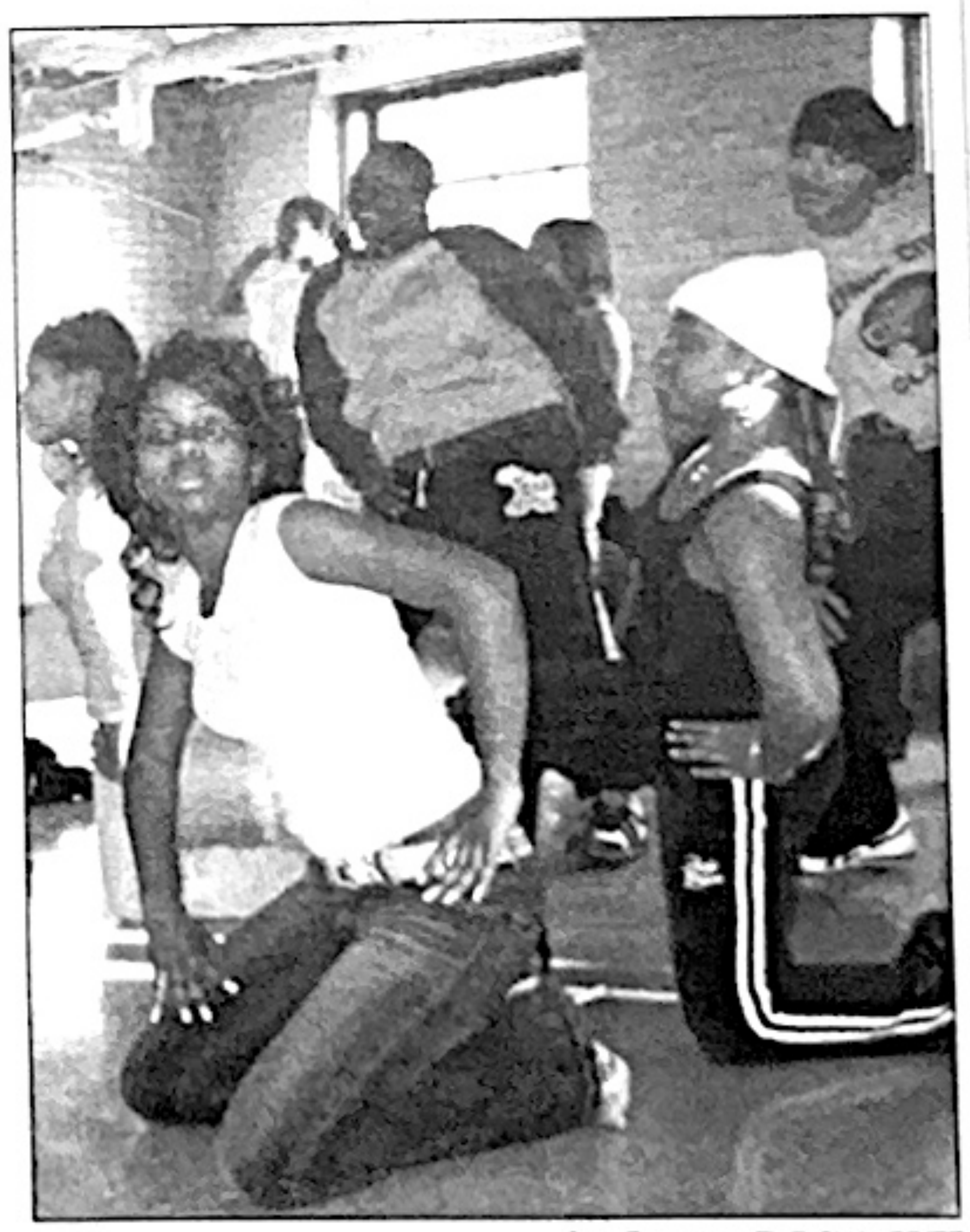
"There is more work towards performance time," said senior Janelle Sterrett, one of Sankofa's student coordinators, explaining that rehearsals got progressively longer as the date of the show approached.

Despite the number and length of rehearsals, senior Denise Mack said participating in Sankofa is a positive experience.

"It's really, really fun. It's a lot of time, but it's worth it and each person has a chance to show off their talents. It's like stuff you never knew they could do before," she said.

Perhaps discovering these talents requires reaching back into the past in order to build for the future, which is the meaning of the West African Akan tribe's word, "Sankofa." Participants reflect this idea throughout their performances.

"Our hope for the show is to learn more about what we did in the past because Sankofa means to go back and fetch it. We want to reach out and educate other people," said sophomore Khristen Moore, another Sankofa student coordinator



Jon Stange • THE SHAKERITE

SENIORS DENISE MACK and Christian Ratcliffe, sophomore Koya Ball and senior Aisha Farley rehearse a dance scene for Sankofa.

Sterrett expressed a similar desire.

"[We hoped] just to improve on what we did last year, but more importantly, just to get across how important black history is," she said.

---

five MINUTE critic

City of God

Starring: Matheus Nachtergaele, Seu Jorge, Alexandre Rodrigues
Director: Fernando Meirelles

Don't let the title fool you. "City of God" is the name of the most violent slum in Rio de Janeiro. The film's branching plot spans 15 years, following protagonist Rocket as he grows up in the city. He becomes a photographer who covers the slum's rampant crime and gang warfare, while his childhood friends become notorious gangsters and drug dealers. The cinematography (one of the film's four Oscar nominations) is gritty and realistic, but sometimes too realistic for the average American moviegoer used to "The Matrix." Despite the disturbing gang violence, the overall beauty of the film makes it worthwhile.

★★★½
out of four
Becca Bonthius

Permission to Land

The Darkness

"I believe in a thing called love /Just listen to the rhythm of my heart," sings Justin Hawkins, lead singer of the British rock band The Darkness. Yes, he is kidding... Well sort of. The music is serious, but the lyrics and almost constant falsetto are clearly making fun of '80s rock clichés. Interestingly enough, their ballads often hit harder than those by real hair bands from the '80s. To truly appreciate Darkness' rockage you have to understand their satire, and be ready to listen to a band that defies the conventions of seriousness. Album standouts include "I Believe In A Thing Called Love," "Growing On Me" and "Love Is Only A Feeling." It's an acquired taste, but it's worth giving this disc a spin.

★★★
out of four
Matt Seidner

<<<<<<<<<<This month in Shakerite sports history

February 1991

Sick of watching President Bush and a war-torn Iraq on TV? Take Brian Resnik's advice and relax with a college basketball game. In 1991, then-sports editor Resnik described sports as a momentary refuge from Middle Eastern crises. He noted that U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia watched Super Bowl XXV as a diversion and that baseball helped improve morale during the Great Depression, World War II and Vietnam. "Sports do not stop wars, or put an end to national crises. They do, however, help to provide a sense of a routine lifestyle," Resnik said. He concluded with advice not so PC by today's standards, writing, "The next time some communist anti-war hippie suggests that we should stop our lives for the war, ask them if they know their history. Chances are, they'll be too stoned to answer."

the Sports Desk

Mastellar retires

After 44 years in public schools, with 34 at Shaker, Athletic Coordinator Jerry Mastellar, who has never missed a home football game, retired after the last home game of the winter season Feb. 21. Mastellar served as athletic director for 29 years and as athletic coordinator for five, helping incoming athletic directors Susan Brown and David Sedmak. Mastellar helped create the Shaker ice hockey program in the '70s, proposed Ohio's state-sponsored hockey tournament in 1975 and served as president of the Greater Cleveland High School Ice Hockey League for 22 years. Before retiring from teaching in 1997, he taught biology for 20 years. "Forty-four years seems to be a good time to think about retirement," Mastellar said.

Crew sweeps ergatta

Shaker crew earned its first Pittsburgh Indoor Sprints medals Feb. 7. Rowers raced for 2000 meters on ergometers, which simulate rowing. Juniors Jessie Walker and Julia Sivertson and senior Amanda Whitman-Rush placed third in the JV open weight, coxswain and varsity lightweight races respectively. The team took home 13 of 15 possible medals at the Hammer Ergatta at Case Western Reserve University Feb. 15, sweeping the JV open weight, novice open and lightweight races. Sivertson noted that the Pittsburgh sprints were more competitive. Junior Carrie Smith, who placed first in the novice open weight race, was impressed. "When you watch the rowing people, you can see that they're giving everything," she said.

-Meagan Steiner

Do private schools recruit advantage?

•Facilities, broader range attract talent

By Marguerite Moore
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

We've seen it before. A public school rises through the ranks of its rival public schools only to be defeated in the first round to a private school. We might complain that they have more money, resources and recruits, but the differences go much deeper.

Athletic Director David Sedmak believes that the three major differences between public schools and private schools are the discipline within the building, the ability to attract kids from a wider range and public schools' emphasis on arts. "The private schools are more selective [and] the environment is much more disciplined," Sedmak said.

One major stereotype is that private schools boast better facilities. University School recently built an 81,000 square-foot field house, including a multi-purpose indoor practice area, a fitness center and weight room, a 200-meter track, and squash courts. There are also wrestling rooms, a gymnasium and a swimming pool with a separate diving well on the campus. These types of high-tech facilities help teams during practice, strengthening them for games.

Senior Mike Steiner, who attended Shaker before transferring to Gilmour Academy this year, finds the facilities very convenient.

"It's nice to have everything right on campus. You don't have to drive anywhere. [At Shaker] you don't get prime time in after school. You might have to share the gym with another team," he said.

University School sophomore Jacob Sheridan also thinks that facilities make a difference.

"I'm not saying that any public schools couldn't have it, but it's probably the top advantage that private schools have," he said. However, Sedmak does not believe that advanced facilities guarantee a winning team. He claims that funding for schools varies, regardless of public or private status.

"Private schools tend to rely on tuition payments from students and donations from alumni. The school itself may not be as well funded as public schools. The facilities may not be as good, which can benefit public schools," Sedmak said. "Certain private schools have great facilities like Ignatius and US, but a lot don't."

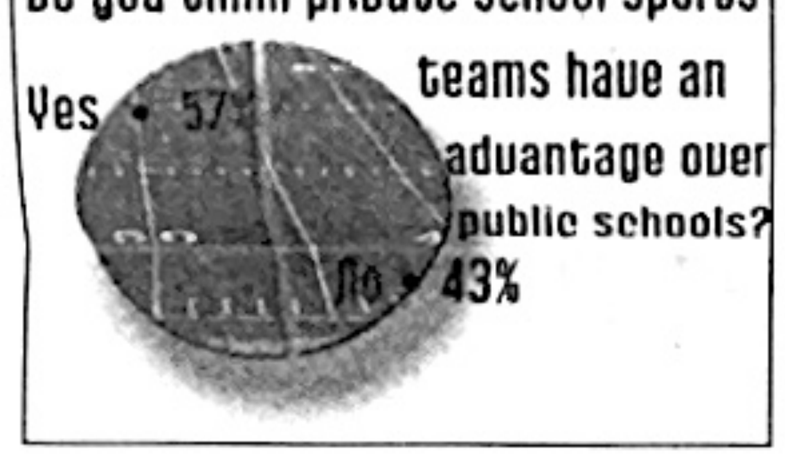
Benedictine senior Michael Gibson said the facilities in smaller schools like his are disadvantageous.

"We don't have the facilities and money that other schools have. There's the money issue at small private schools," he said.

Another major difference between schools is that private schools have a notorious reputation for recruiting the best players, leading to their success. According to Section 9 of the Ohio High School Athletic Association Bylaws, recruiting is "the use of influence by any person connected or not connected with the school to secure the transfer of a prospective-student athlete."

Private schools often get a bad rap for their recruitment actions, but St. Ignatius' Assistant Athletic Director Rory Fitzpatrick does not believe that the recruiting stereotypes are true.

Do you think private school sports teams have an advantage over public schools?

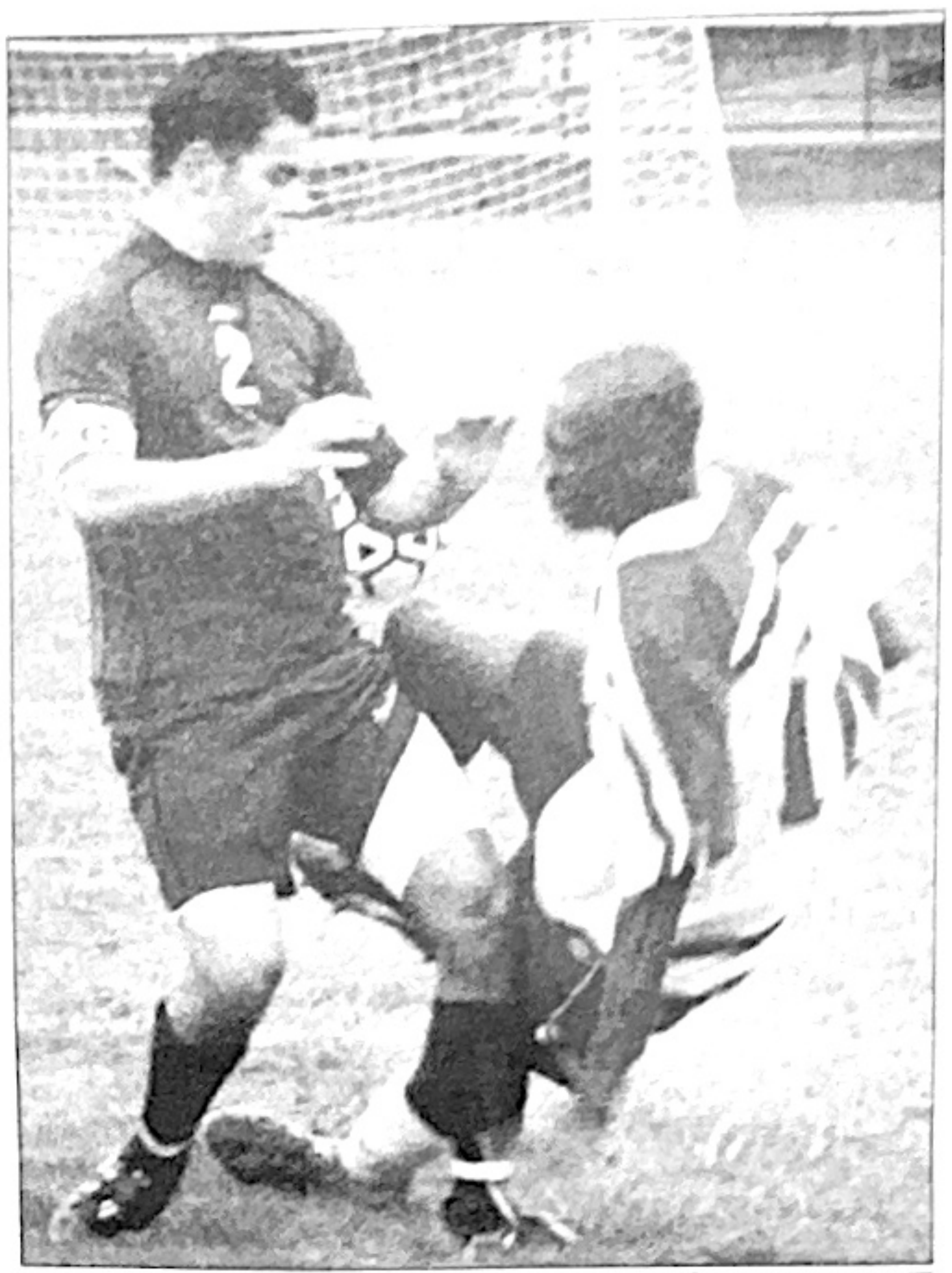


"That's the perception, but if it were the case, we'd win all the time. There are a lot of variables, you can't really make a blanket statement. Private schools can sustain [teams] over a longer period of time," he said, adding that St. Ignatius' recruitment methods don't go over the lines.

"We don't bombard kids with phone calls," Fitzpatrick said. "We're strict about the rules and what we can and cannot do. Our coaches really follow the letter of the law. We don't stress recruiting, but it's something that we do. Recruiting is not a bad word; it's how you do it."

Hathaway Brown School Athletic Director Laurette Payette also believes that recruiting can be done properly. "The only students that we talk to are ones whose families inquire about the school and the possibility of attending the school. Our coaches can't talk to students unless their families have talked to admissions first," she said.

Despite recruiting, Fitzpatrick thinks that Shaker has done a great job with keeping its players at the school. Sophomore Djibril Gueye, who was offered a sports position at a private school, decided to stay at Shaker.


Brian Gamm•THE SHAKERITE

SOPHOMORE DJIBRIL GUEYE slips as a result of harsh weather conditions during a home game against St. Benedictine Sept. 22. Gueye said that private school sports teams do not necessarily have advantages over public schools. "The coaching and the teaching are the same. As long as you follow the coach, you'll be on top," he said.

"Private schools are sponsored; they can get whatever they want," Gueye said, specifically citing athletic equipment. However, he does not believe that private institutions necessarily have an advantage. "The coaching and the teaching are the same. As long as you follow the coach, you'll be on top," he said.

> "Recruiting is not a bad word; it's how you do it."
>
> Rory Fitzpatrick
> St. Ignatius assistant athletic director

Another difference between private and public schools is the amount of discipline directed toward the sport. Shaker resident Charles J. O'Fahey wrote a letter to the editor in the Feb. 27, 2002 Shakerite stating, "Varsity practices in private schools are highly intensified and disciplined. Not all public schools can say that."

"Private schools can be very picky," Sedmak said. "They have a more focused environment that can carry over into sports. When you walk through the halls of a private school, you can hear a pin drop."

Fitzpatrick confirmed that discipline is a big part of the St. Ignatius foundation.

"We're based on a Jesuit tradition. I know I can speak to what Ignatius does in terms of behavior. We make a point of that. Our motto is, 'Men for others.' It's a big focus at the school," he said.

Beaumont senior Susie Nickol suggested that the discipline in her school carried over into sports.

Payette, however, sees a nominal disciplinary difference in athletics.

"Athletics are optional. Kids who are there want to be there so the discipline involved is usually minimal," she said.

Currently public and private schools in the same division play against each other in state tournaments, but there has been discussion in the past about having separate tournaments, one for private schools and one for public schools.

Sedmak said other states do this, but it was voted down in Ohio because the only conflict was in Cleveland, Toledo and Cincinnati.

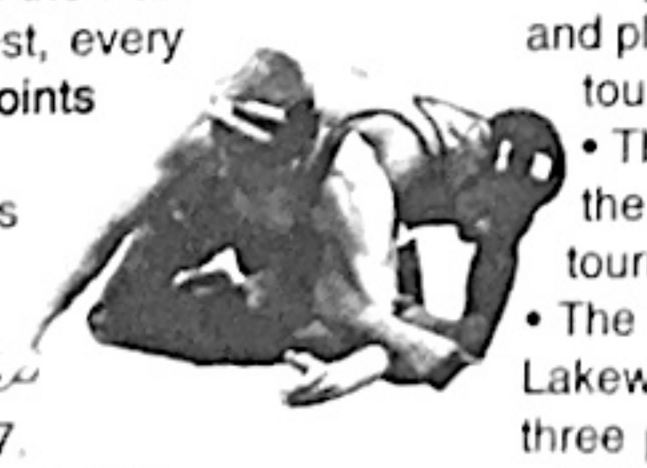
"[But if we do change] there will always be that question: Who's the best?" Sedmak said.

By the NUMBERS

•Check out Shaker's record as winter season winds down

MEN'S B-BALL

- With the exception of the Feb. 21 St. Edward's contest, every game decided by **8 points or less**.
- Their LEL record was 4-4.
- The team won the East Liverpool Tournament Dec. 26-27.
- Season **highlights** included victories over St. Ignatius and Warren Harding, which was ranked 13th in the state.



HOCKEY

- The team had close games with University School and St. Edward's, their **biggest competitors**.
- After losing to US in overtime, Shaker beat them 4-2 Jan. 24.
- Their **record** is 19-10-1 overall.
- The team beat Mentor 5-0 in **district semi-finals** Feb. 24 and will play University School Feb. 27.

WRESTLING

- They have a **record** of 16-6 and placed third in the LEL tournament.
- The team placed sixth at the Austintown Fitch tournament Jan. 23-24.
- The team lost to **rival** Lakewood twice, by one and three points.
- Juniors Corey Morrison and Nick Simon placed **third** at Districts Feb. 20-21.

DIVING

- Coah Steve Murphy said the Jan. 24 Solon meet was the **most competitive** for the women.
- Every diver got a **personal best** score this season.
- Senior Anthony Welch qualified for Districts but did not advance to the state meet.
- Welch and junior Casy Reese placed in the **top ten** on an ongoing list of Shaker divers' best scores.

MEN'S SWIMMING

- The team went **undefeated** with a record of 7-0 in LEL.
- They met their **goal** of repeating as LEL champions and also placed fourth at sectionals. "They were real proud and should be," said head coach Eric Peterson.
- The Solon meet Jan. 24 was the **most competitive**.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

- They placed **second** at sectionals to Solon and have an LEL **record** of 6-1.
- Seniors Ellis Schieman and Michelle Grossman, sophomore Alaina Sullivan and freshmen Erin Cox qualified for the state meet at Districts Feb. 20-21.
- Other **stand out** swimmers include senior Katie Glass and freshmen Meghan Thompson and Alena Kelly.

WOMEN'S B-BALL

- With a **record** of 9-11, the team placed second in LEL.
- **Beat** Cleveland East 72-41 in sectional and faced East Tech in **sectional final** Feb. 26.
- A highlight was their five-game **winning streak.**
- Head coach Denise Duncan said the team is peaking at the right time. She said, "I think we're ready to gain the respect of the basketball community."

Photos by Brian Gamm and Dan Snider•THE SHAKERITE

Freshmen swimmers race to top

By Lauren Weiss
COPY EDITOR

Freshmen Meghan Thompson and Alena Kelly are making waves.

Literally.

The two are new talent on the high school swim team, with Thompson specializing in the 200 and 500 freestyle and Kelly racing the 100 fly and the 200 freestyle. In the 200 freestyle, the two girls often finish right behind senior Ellis Schieman, who ranked third at the state meet last year.

Kelly began working on her races with Shaker Sharks eight years ago and has been swimming since then. She says the two-hour daily practices are tiring and time consuming but worth the effort.

"Swimming helps me relax," Kelly said. "You swim your race and realize, 'Wow, I did hard work and it pays off.' "

At the sectional meet Feb. 14, Thompson qualified for districts with personal bests of 2:05 in the 200 freestyle, 5:29 in the 500 freestyle and 3:49 in the 400 freestyle relay. She couldn't compete at districts, though, due to illness. Kelly barely missed the cut to qualify with times of 1:09.1 in the 100 fly and 2:09 in the 200 freestyle, though she finished faster than some qualifiers from other sections.

Two of Thompson and Kelly's favorite races were the 200 medley relay and the 200 free relay they swam at the Junior Olympics when they were 10.

"It was a really good experience," said Thompson, the MVP of the middle school's swim team last year. "It was exciting to see people from other teams and race them."

Who to watch

In addition to swimming, Kelly plays softball and hockey and Thompson plays soccer, which makes time management essential. Kelly, for example, takes a break from swimming in the spring to play softball.

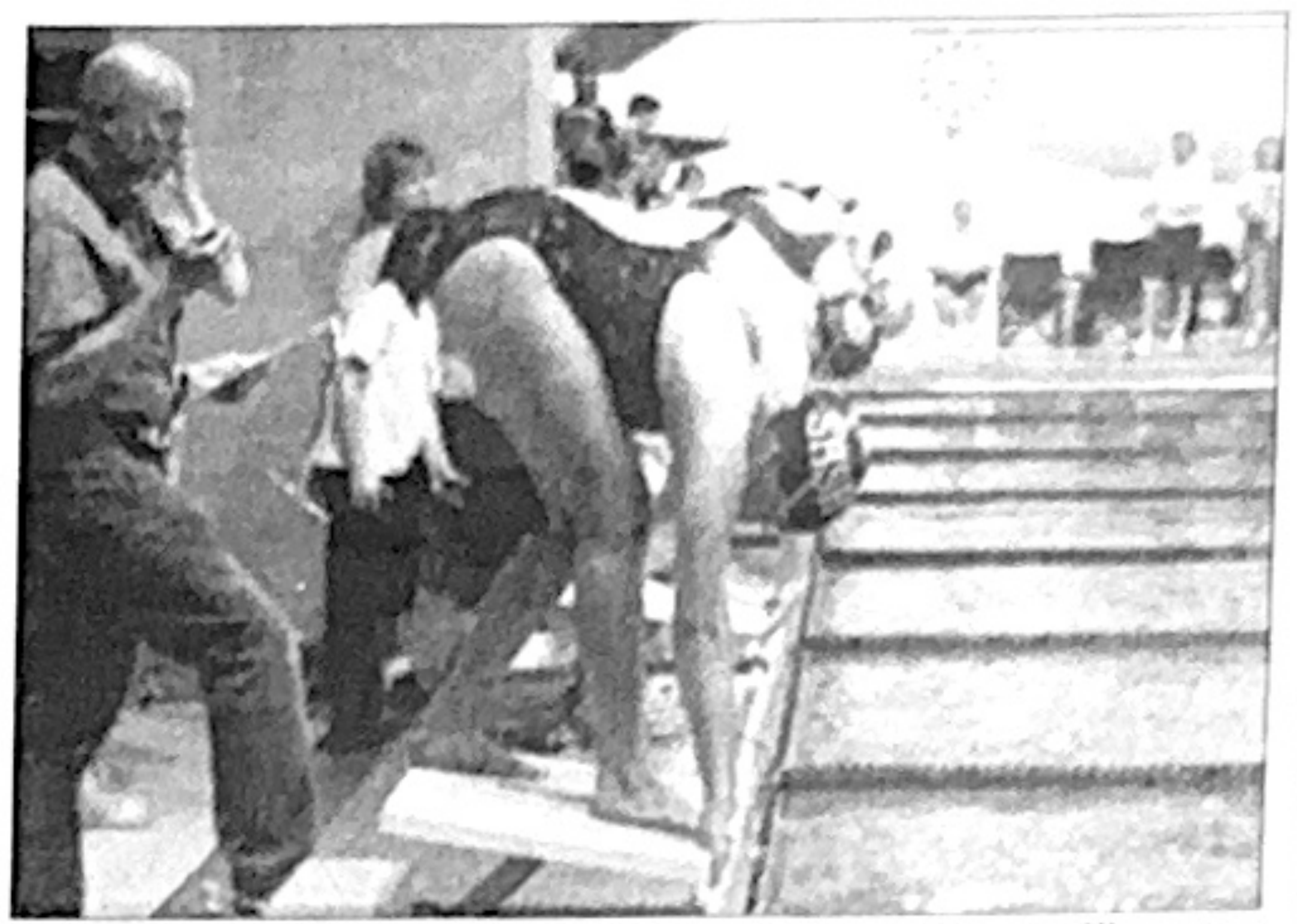
Head coach Eric Peterson believes Thompson and Kelly have can reach the state meet as seniors, and the girls share his hopes.

"[As a senior] I want to be leading the team and be a good role model to the freshmen, like the seniors are to me," said Kelly, who added that she looks up to Schieman.

Working together and having fun are two of the cornerstones of the swim team.

"We pump each other up. We race each other at practice. There's a lot of cheering and team spirit," Thompson said.

Freshman swimmer Erin Cox, who has been swimming with the pair at Shaker Sharks for the past five years, said, "Meghan is so determined, and Alena loves to have fun with swimming. I don't think she would do it if it wasn't fun."



Courtesy of Demitri Klementov

FRESHMAN ALENA KELLY waits at the starting block before competing in the 200 freestyle at the Hudson meet Nov. 8-9. Kelly and freshman Meghan Thompson often rank right behind top swimmer senior Ellis Schieman.

'Playmakers' a short-lived success

Eager to find out how the Carolina Cougars bounce back after missing the playoffs? Wonder if their head coach can continue despite being diagnosed with prostate cancer? Anxious to see if their running back beats his drug addiction?

DAVID O'CONNELL
SPORTS EDITOR

You'll have to rely on your imagination, because ESPN has punted its popular yet controversial show "Playmakers," a series based on a fictional pro football team known as the Carolina Cougars. The show portrayed the struggles of athletes inside and outside the game, including steroid use, domestic violence and homophobia. Although ESPN won't admit it, the "Playmakers" story lines appear to have come directly from headlines about NFL players. The show also explored less dramatic conflicts, such as competing for playing time and dealing with being cut or traded. Although the show attracted 2 million viewers per episode, five times the typical ESPN audience during the 10 p.m. Tuesday time slot, the sports network cancelled "Playmakers" after just one season.

The truth hurts when it hits the NFL in the face with a series like this. No one doubts that the events portrayed in the episodes actually happen in professional football, and the sports world in general suffers from similar incidents. But when 2 million viewers a week tuned in to spy on the dark and sinister lives of football players - even fictional ones - it's not surprising that the NFL wanted to protect its image by pressuring ESPN to drop the series.

ESPN pays the NFL $4.8 billion to air Sunday Night Football during the regular season, a contract that ends in 2005. It's no shocker that ESPN would rather drop a series with controversy written all over it for a renewed deal with the league and thus keep a profitable relationship.

The NFL tolerates mild criticism from reporters, broadcasters and viewers. Yet it won't accept a show that provides a dramatic, intense look at the less glamorous side of athletes' lives. Although real athletes and real headlines influenced "Playmakers," it is still just a fabricated show. None of the names or logos were related to the NFL, and it was clearly not intended to tarnish the league's reputation.

NFL players are angry about the show and argue that it misrepresents their lives and their careers. While it's possible that the events portrayed on "Playmakers" stretched the truth, other people argue that the show isn't authentic enough or that the writers went easy on the athletes.

Think there is a coincidence between the fictional Carolina Cougars and the actual NFL franchise Carolina Panthers? The Panthers have endured disturbing incidents during their nine-year history, including the death of Fred Lane, who was shot by his wife as he tried to escape drug charges; the time when Kerry Collins voiced a racial slur and was punched in the jaw by a teammate; and the time when Rae Carruth was convicted of plotting the murder of his pregnant girlfriend. All this trouble on just one team. Is "Playmakers" really that far off?

"Playmakers" should be a rude awakening for all athletes who believe that their off the field lives are off limits. The NFL may have bullied ESPN into dropping its fictional pro football drama, but with six alleged rapes by players since 1999, the very real University of Colorado football program better watch out.

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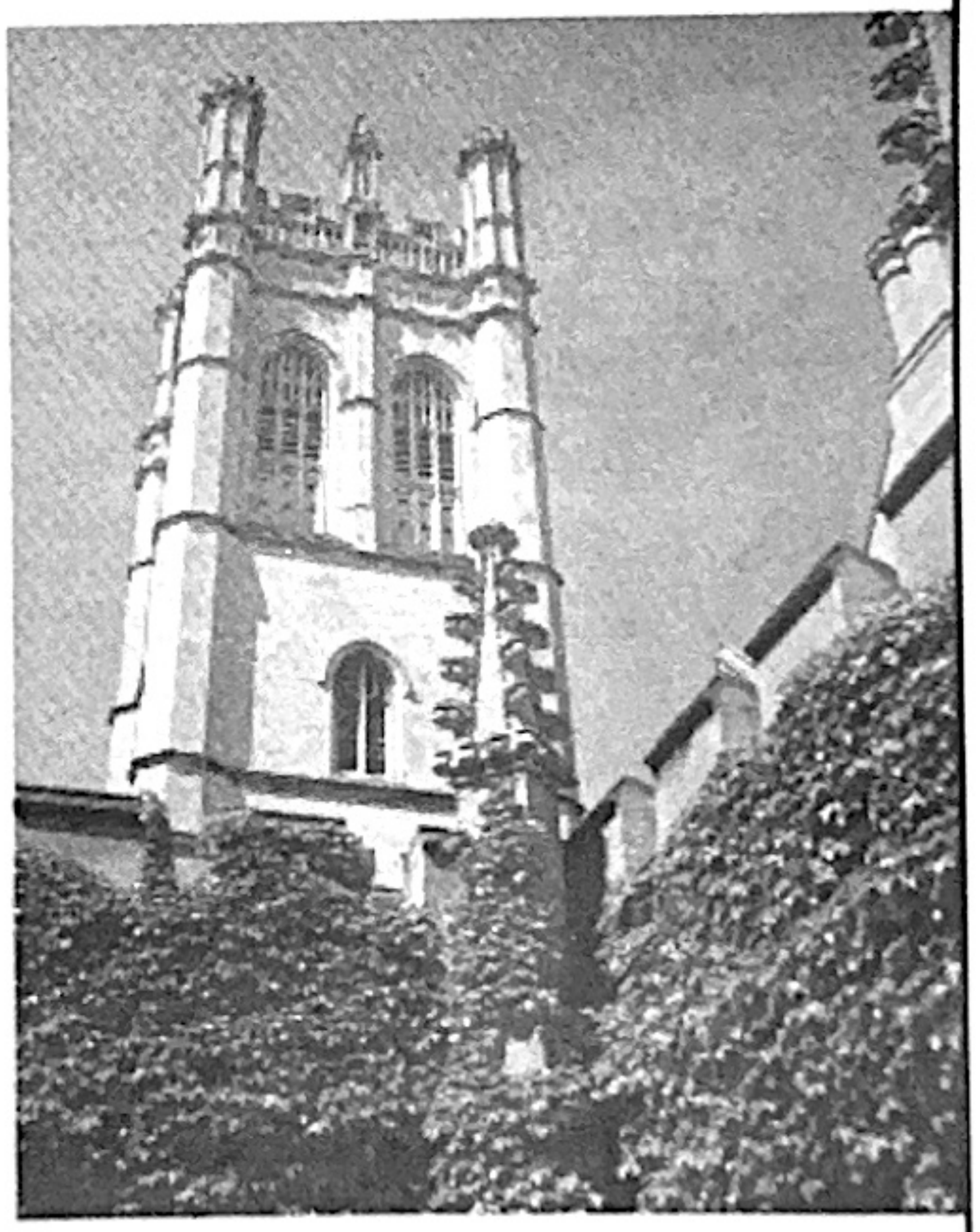

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POLITICS 101

Running the Race: The Presidential Election

START

Political Parties

The U.S. has two major political parties, the Republican Party (the conservative party) and the Democratic Party (the liberal party). There are other groups such as the Green Party and independent parties that are not as powerful and do not receive as much attention.

Candidacy Announcement

You may hear individuals announce that they are running for president up to two years before the general election.

↓

Nomination campaign

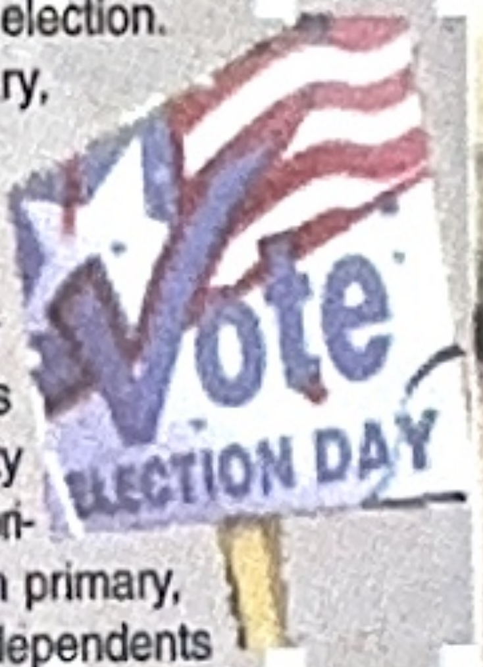
Candidates begin to recruit volunteers, raise money, seek support from party officials, test strategies, and develop official platforms (their views and beliefs). Candidates campaign for their party's nomination, which they must get in order to run in the general election. During this time, candidates of the same party hold debates and travel from state to state, focusing their efforts on states with upcoming caucuses and primaries.

↓

Primary season

Primary season begins in January with the Iowa caucus, followed by the New Hampshire primary, and ends with the Montana and New Jersey primaries in June. A **caucus** is a meeting of registered voters who informally select their party's presidential candidate.

Primary election: Voters cast ballots to choose which candidate will represent their party in the general election.



In a closed primary, only a party's registered voters are allowed to vote for a candidate in order to prevent members of the opposing party from influencing the primaries. In an open primary, party members, independents and sometimes members of the other party can vote. This year, Ohio's open primary occurs March 2, known as Super Tuesday.

↓

Party Conventions

This year the Democratic National Convention will be held in Boston July 26-29. The party in power — currently the Republican Party — holds its convention last in New York City from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2. President George W. Bush, The Republican National Committee's nominee, will run for reelection.

1. Official Nomination Season — Caucuses and primaries determine whom the delegates will nominate at their conventions. A candidate must earn at least 15 percent of the state's vote to be eligible for delegates. The candidate who receives a simple majority of the party's delegates at the convention becomes the party's presidential nominee.

2. Naming of Vice President — Once nominated by their party, candidates must choose a running mate, who usually adds balance to the ticket through age, philosophy or ability to attract voters from other parts of the country.

3. Party Platforms — Parties also reach a consensus with their candidates about the platforms (views or beliefs) that the party will support.

→

General election campaign

The two major-party candidates campaign against each other; debates are customary. States with the most electoral votes receive much of the candidates' attention, as do swing states — those with large numbers of undecided voters who can be "swung" to support either party's candidate. Ohio will be an important state in this election as a swing state with 20 electoral votes. It has sided with the winner in 24 out of the last 26 elections.

→

Election day

Held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, this year's vote takes place Nov. 2.

↓

Electoral College

A candidate must win the majority of the Electoral College to become president, regardless of the popular vote. The Electoral College holds 538 electors, who cast the final ballots. Each state's number of electors is the sum of its representation in Congress. For example, Ohio has 18 representatives and two senators, so Ohio has 20 electors. Each elector casts one vote for the president and one for the vice president. In the 2000 presidential election, George W. Bush won the popular vote in Ohio and therefore recieved all of Ohio's electoral votes. The votes are counted before a joint session of Congress, but the House of Representatives selects the president and the Senate selects the vice president if there is no majority. Inauguration occurs in Washington D.C. on Jan. 20.

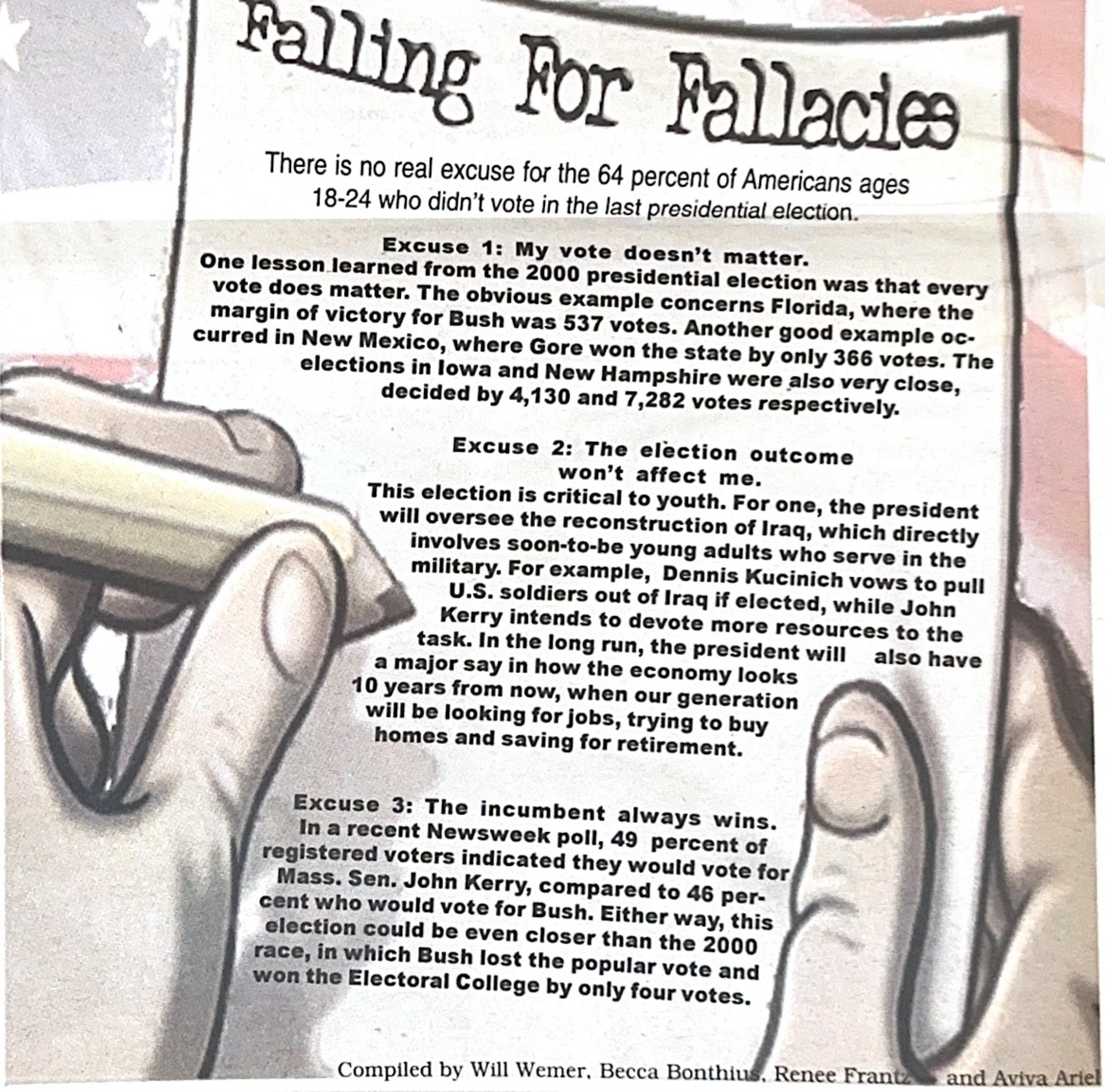
finish

Avoid Voter Apathy: Get Involved

To attract young people to political activism, MTV's Choose or Lose campaign has targeted youth since 1992. The latest edition is 20 Million Loud, which hopes to increase the number of youth who vote in 2004 by 2 million. Their justification is that if 20 million youth vote in 2004 (which would be 2 million more than the numbers for the 2000 election), the election outcome would be radically different.

Rock the Vote, which hosted a debate for the democratic presidential hopefuls in Boston Nov. 4, was founded in 1990. Using cultural icons from music and TV, Rock The Vote's goal is to make the political process more appealing to young voters. The Dixie Chicks officially signed on for their campaign, called 'Chicks Rock, Chicks Vote!' "We are involved with Rock the Vote because they are a great avenue for bringing awareness to the issues and getting people to register to vote," the Dixie Chicks stated in a press release.

Founded in 1992 by former presidents Jimmy Carter (a Democrat) and Gerald Ford (a Republican), Vote Smart's goal is to educate Americans about politicians in an unbiased fashion so voters can draw their own conclusions. Vote Smart gathers information on politicians, such as voting records and issue positions, and posts the info on their website. "A knowledgeable electorate is the strongest component of a functioning democracy," said Vote Smart in their mission statement.



Falling For Fallacies

There is no real excuse for the 64 percent of Americans ages 18-24 who didn't vote in the last presidential election.

Excuse 1: My vote doesn't matter.

One lesson learned from the 2000 presidential election was that every vote does matter. The obvious example concerns Florida, where the margin of victory for Bush was 537 votes. Another good example occurred in New Mexico, where Gore won the state by only 366 votes. The elections in Iowa and New Hampshire were also very close, decided by 4,130 and 7,282 votes respectively.

Excuse 2: The election outcome won't affect me.

This election is critical to youth. For one, the president will oversee the reconstruction of Iraq, which directly involves soon-to-be young adults who serve in the military. For example, Dennis Kucinich vows to pull U.S. soldiers out of Iraq if elected, while John Kerry intends to devote more resources to the task. In the long run, the president will also have a major say in how the economy looks 10 years from now, when our generation will be looking for jobs, trying to buy homes and saving for retirement.

Excuse 3: The incumbent always wins.

In a recent Newsweek poll, 49 percent of registered voters indicated they would vote for Mass. Sen. John Kerry, compared to 46 percent who would vote for Bush. Either way, this election could be even closer than the 2000 race, in which Bush lost the popular vote and won the Electoral College by only four votes.

Compiled by Will Wemer, Becca Bonthius, Renee Frantz and Aviva Ariel